

# JUST FOR U.S.\*

GRADES 4 - 6

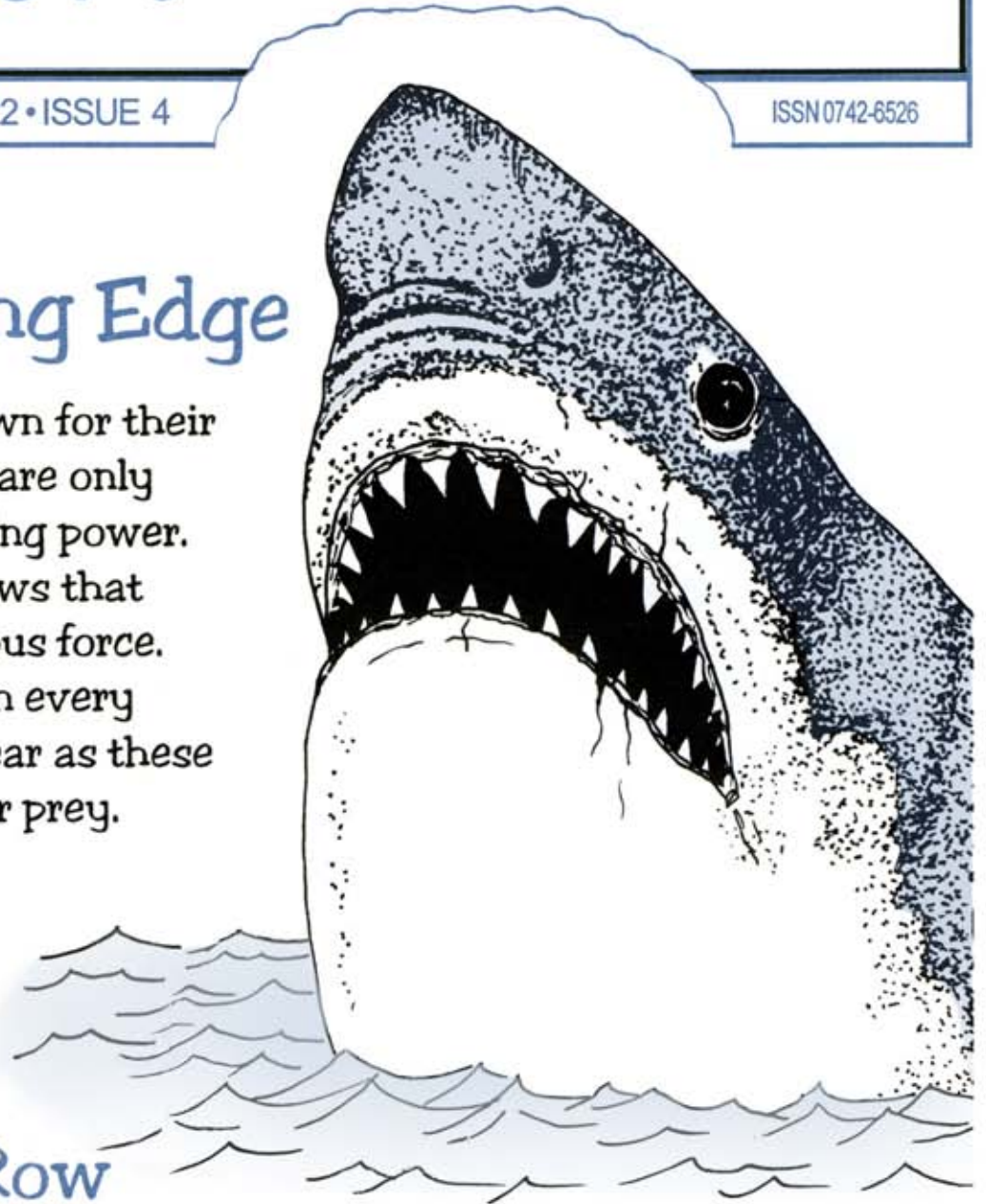
\* UNDERSTANDING SCIENCE

1997-98 VOLUME 22 • ISSUE 4

ISSN 0742-6526

## The Cutting Edge

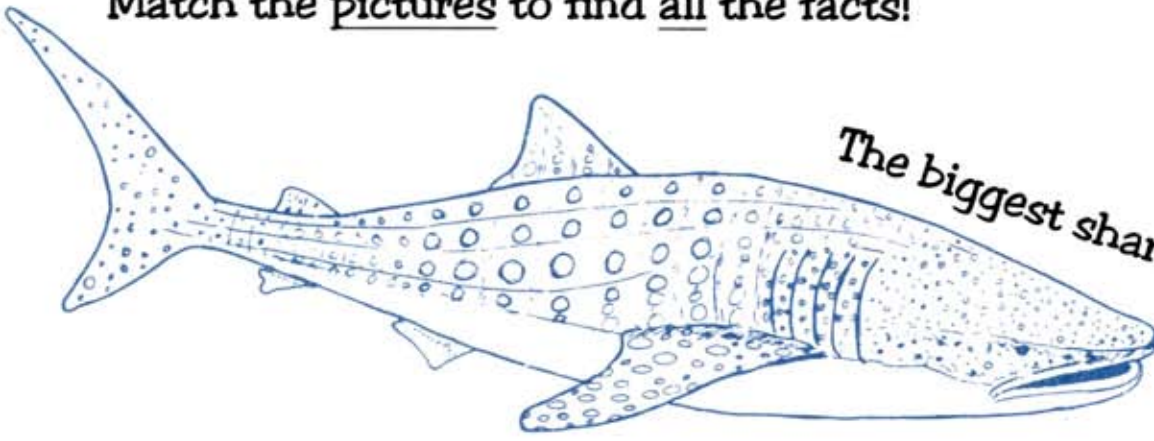
Sharks are known for their teeth. Sharp points are only part of a shark's biting power. Most sharks have jaws that close with tremendous force. Knife-sharp edges on every tooth kill, cut, and tear as these predators claim their prey.



## Row After Row

Behind the front row of teeth, there may be several rows of "spare" teeth. A new tooth will rotate forward whenever a tooth in the first row is lost. Since new teeth are always growing behind the front teeth, the shark never runs out.

Match the pictures to find all the facts!

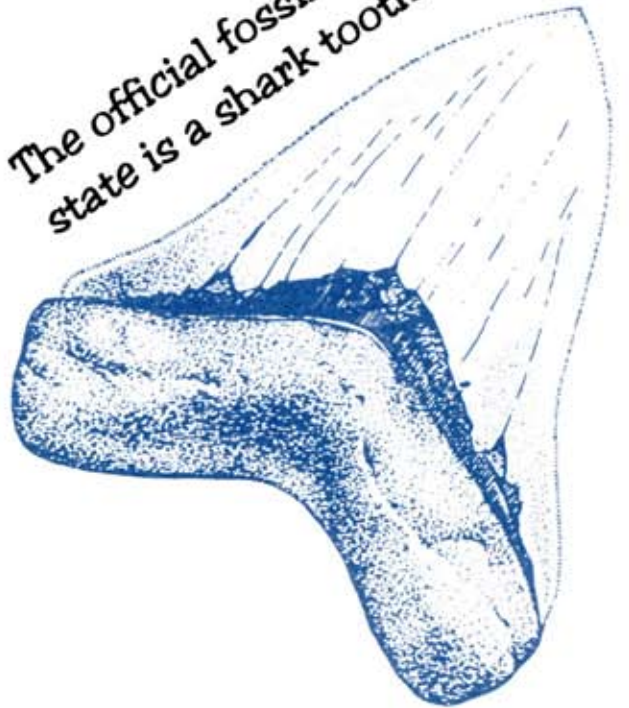


The biggest shark has 400 teeth,  
but it never bites.

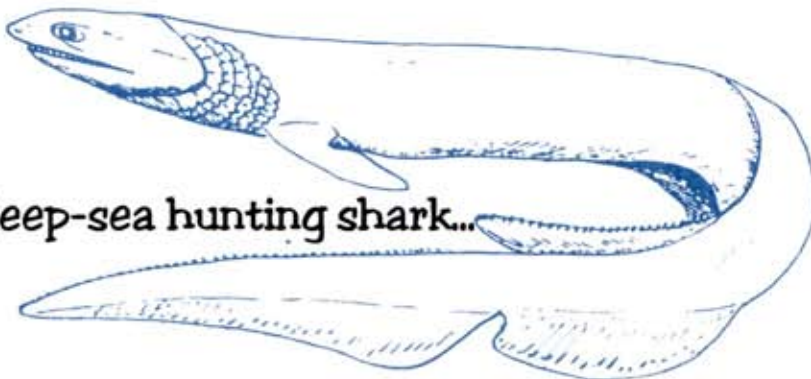


The teeth in this shark's bottom  
jaw look like tiny thorns.

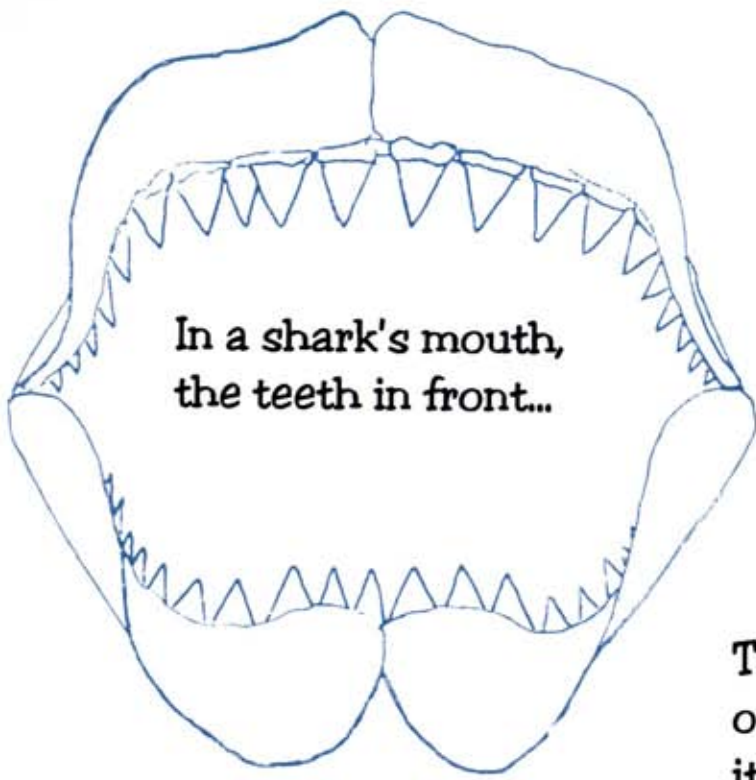
The official fossil of our  
state is a shark tooth.



This deep-sea hunting shark...

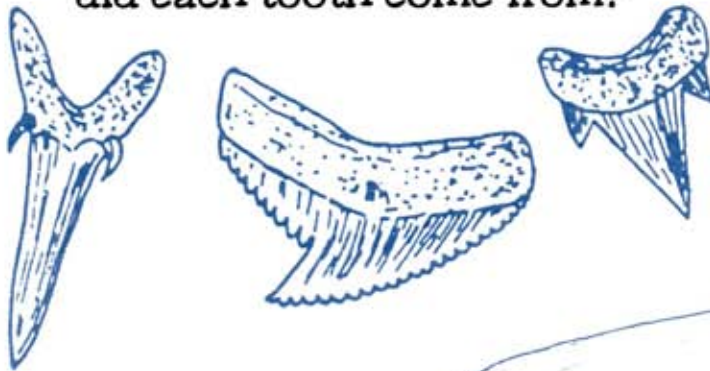


sand



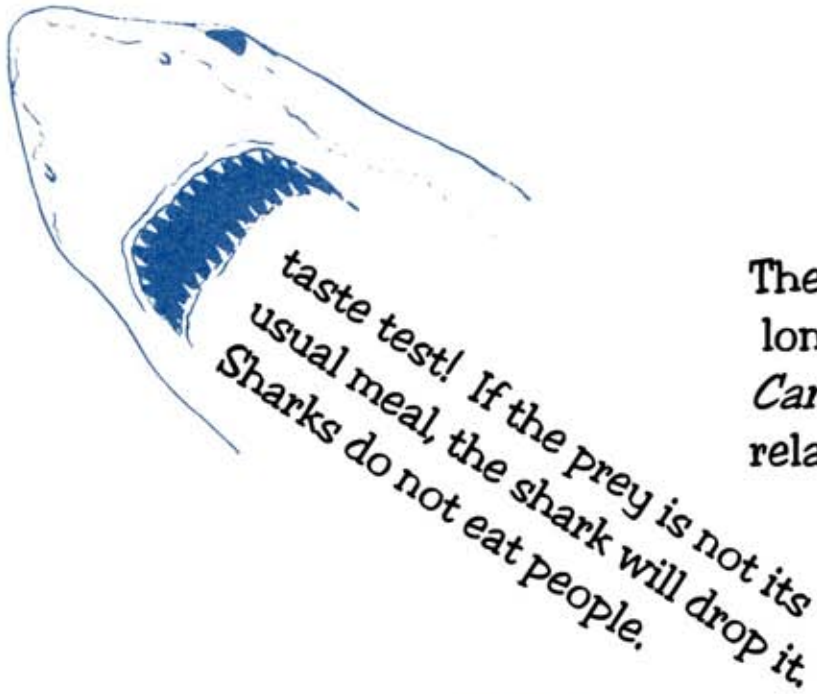
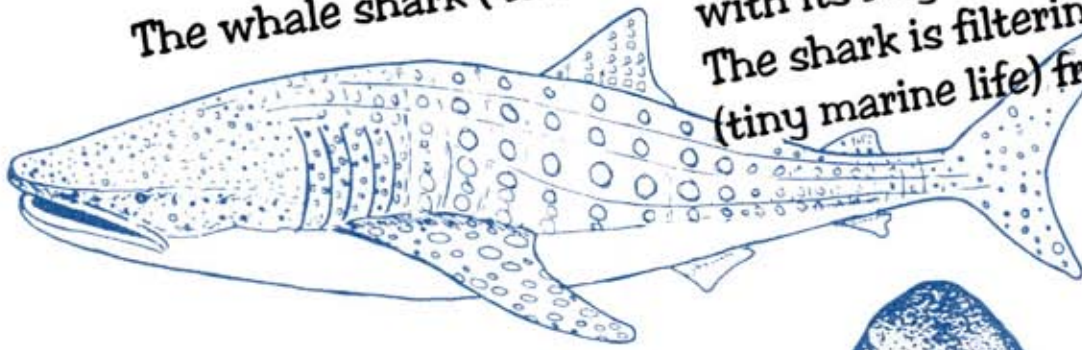
The cookie-cutter shark bites a plug out of its prey and that is how it got its name.

The shape of one tooth can identify a shark. What shark did each tooth come from?



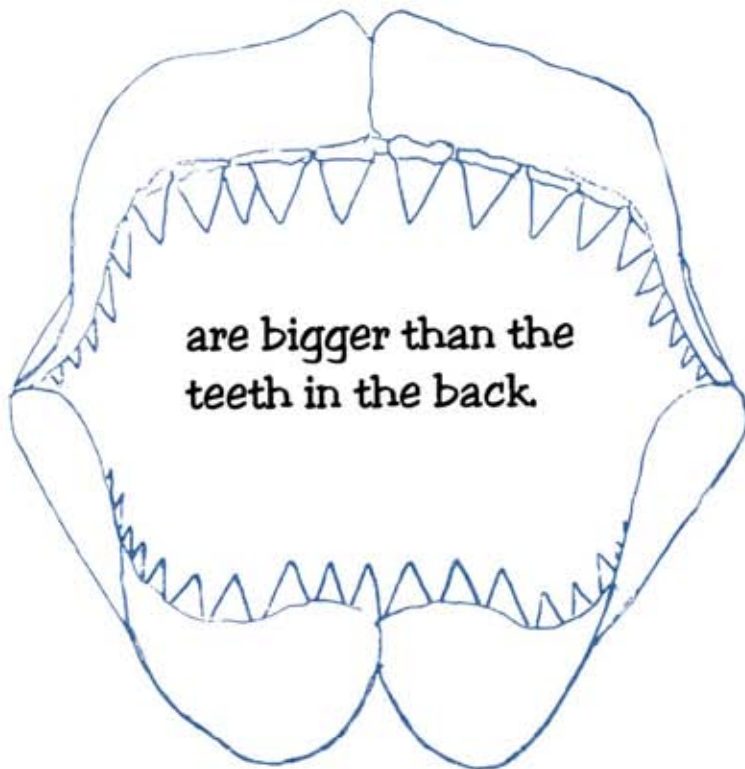
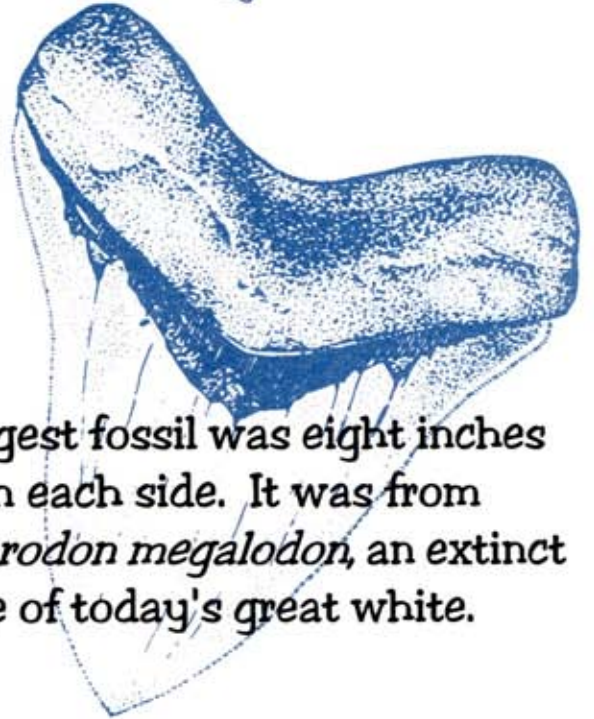
is the frilled shark. It has 13 rows of teeth in the lower jaw and 14 rows above.

The whale shark (45 feet long) swims slowly with its huge mouth open. The shark is filtering plankton (tiny marine life) from the water.



taste test! If the prey is not its usual meal, the shark will drop it. Sharks do not eat people.

The largest fossil was eight inches long on each side. It was from *Carcharodon megalodon*, an extinct relative of today's great white.



are bigger than the teeth in the back.

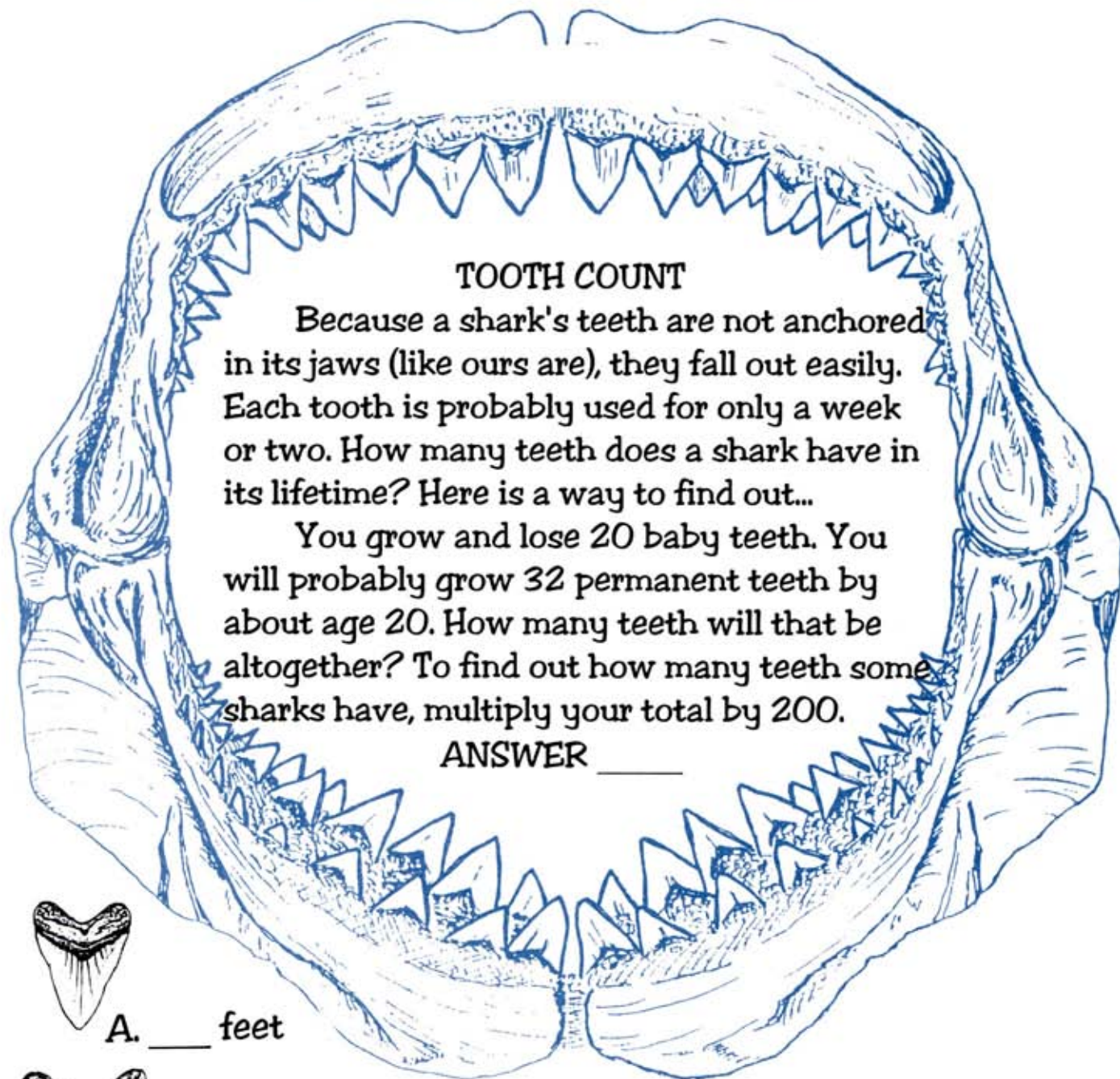
tiger



mackerel



# SHARK MATH



## TOOTH COUNT

Because a shark's teeth are not anchored in its jaws (like ours are), they fall out easily. Each tooth is probably used for only a week or two. How many teeth does a shark have in its lifetime? Here is a way to find out...

You grow and lose 20 baby teeth. You will probably grow 32 permanent teeth by about age 20. How many teeth will that be altogether? To find out how many teeth some sharks have, multiply your total by 200.

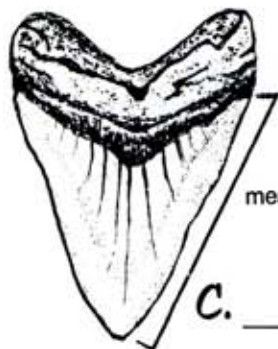
ANSWER \_\_\_\_\_



A. \_\_\_\_\_ feet



B. \_\_\_\_\_ feet



C. \_\_\_\_\_ feet

## HOW LONG WAS THE SHARK?

If a shark has triangle-shaped teeth, you can figure out how long the fish was. First, measure an edge of the tooth. Now, multiply by 10. Your answer is the shark's length in feet.

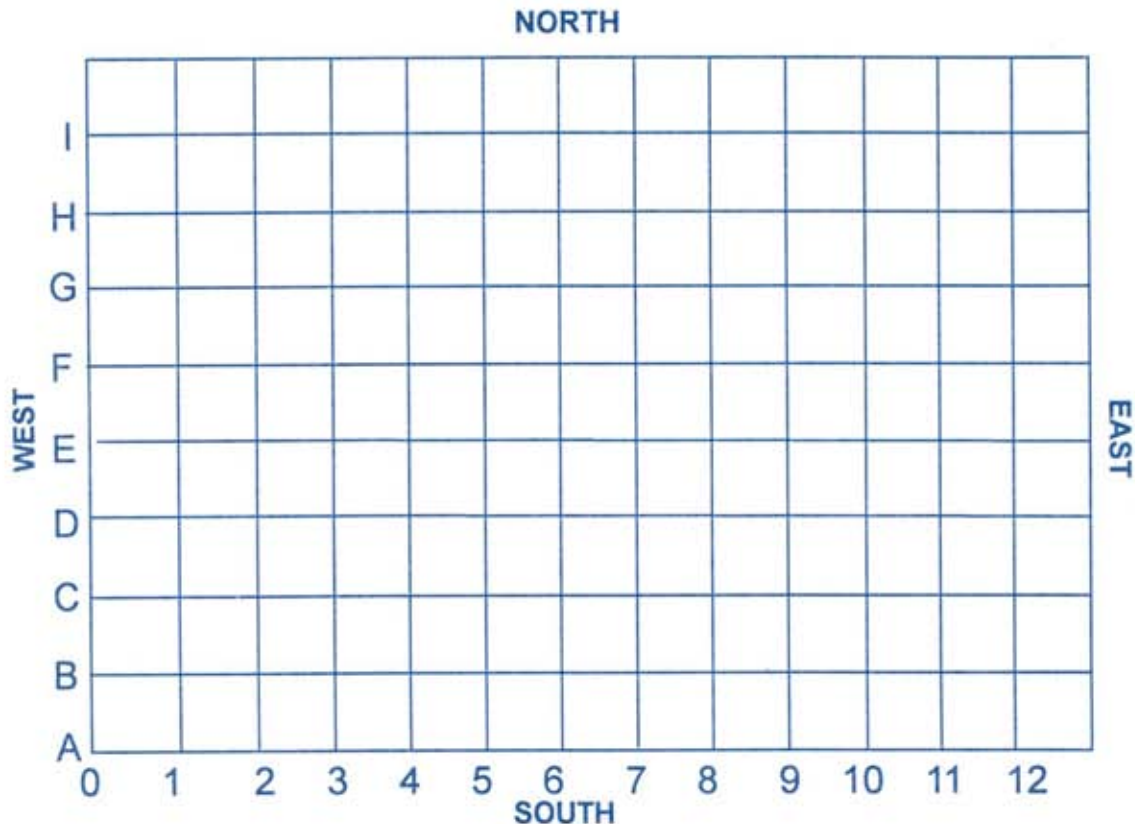
CALL 404-378-4314, EXT. 347 March 15 until April 10 to check your answers to pages 5 and 6.

## FINDING SHARK TEETH

The best place to look for fossil shark teeth is on Georgia's beaches. Some are buried in the sand. When the tide goes out, search for washed-up teeth on the beach!

### GO ON AN IMAGINARY FOSSIL HUNT

Pretend there is a fossil tooth buried under this grid. Follow the directions. Where do you dig?



**Start at C-5. Then move as follows:**

**3 north, 6 east, and 2 southwest.**

**If you are not at D-9, start over.**

**Ask for help if you need it.**

**From D-9, move 5 north, 4 west, 5 south, 3 southeast, 3 north; 4 west, 2 southwest, and north 3.**