

## PERSONALITY POWER!

Brian tells NG KiDS about two of his closest shark encounters...

**LOCATION:** Bahamas

**HABITAT:** Mangrove forest

**SHARK ENCOUNTER:** Lemon sharks

"Trekking through a mangrove forest, I stumbled across a wild lemon shark nursery. The coastal waters were only 30cm deep, so I grabbed my snorkel and scrambled onto my stomach to snap pics of three lemon shark pups. (right). They were wary of me at first, but after one swished closer, the others approached, too."

"Some sharks display more confidence than others and are quicker to explore new things. But each personality type has its benefits. Lemon sharks that are social may do better when food is plentiful because they'll share it with each other. But when food is scarce, lemon sharks that like to be alone may thrive because they won't have to divide up their meals!"

**LOCATION:** Atlantic Ocean

**HABITAT:** Open water

**SHARK ENCOUNTER:** Tiger sharks

"I was with a group of divers in the Atlantic Ocean when I caught sight of a 4-m-long tiger shark with ginormous jaws. I was nervous because that species tends to be aggressive. Next to them, you realise how small and vulnerable you are! But the shark glided over and paused by each of the other divers, as if she was greeting them. Then she turned to me and allowed me to touch her."

"It turns out she already knew the other divers – and they'd named her Emma! Once I got over my initial reaction, I realised that Emma was just a gentle giant. She came to visit us almost every day during our stay. I still see Emma when I visit the area."

Brian hopes that by showing the different personalities of sharks, people won't see them as a bunch of dangerous animals. Instead, they'll see them as individuals that deserve our care and protection – even if they do have a lot of teeth!

Mangrove forests are great places for young sharks to grow up safely

More than 450 species of sharks exist, but at least 26 of them are endangered and 48 are vulnerable.

This photo of a lemon shark pup was taken from the watery floor of a mangrove forest

Some sharks grow over 30,000 teeth in their lifetimes.

## WHICH SHARK ARE YOU MOST LIKE?

Pick the sentence that best describes you, then read about your inner fish!

"I like to make a splash!" You're like a **blacktip shark**, which performs a **showy display** by leaping from the sea, **rotating** several times, and splashing down.

"I'm very observant." Meet your match, the **hammerhead shark**! This fish's **wide-set eyes** give it a **broad range of vision**, which helps it find prey.

"I can seem intimidating, but I'm actually a big softie." Reaching **12m long**, the **whale shark** is the world's largest fish. But this **gentle and calm** shark eats **plankton**.

"I like lounging around." You're similar to the **Caribbean reef shark**. It's nicknamed the '**sleeping shark**' because it lies **motionless** on the seafloor when not hunting.

"I'm always on the go." The **great white shark** has lots of **energy**, just like you! With its **torpedo-shaped body** and **strong tail**, this fish can swim **40kmph**!

"Not much gets me down." You and the **sand tiger shark** are alike. This fish surfaces to **gulp air**, which ends up in its **belly**, making the shark more **buoyant**.

## GUARDIANS OF THE SEA

Want to keep our oceans in **good condition**? Call in the **sharks**! They eat critters whose **populations are too high**, balancing the number of animals in our seas. Sharks that live around **coral reefs** also eat animals that prey on **herbivorous** (plant-eating) **fish**. Without sharks, more herbivorous fish would vanish, which would be **bad news for coral** as these fish eat **harmful algae** that grow on the reefs.

Brian readies his camera to take photos of a school of Caribbean reef sharks

A tiger shark off the Bahamas glides over a coral reef