



## Why Sharks Never Go To The Dentist

By John Joyce

Avast there, Mateys!

Us humans only have to deal with two sets of teeth in our lifetimes—so spare a thought for sharks . . .

**S**harks never EVER have to go to the dentist! While you and I have only one row of teeth in each of our upper and lower jaws, sharks teeth sit in up to FIFTEEN rows (depending on the type of shark) along the upper and lower jaws. As the teeth in the front rows become blunt, they fall out and are constantly replaced with new, sharp ones from the row behind.

Sharks' teeth are incredibly sharp . . . sharp enough to cut paper. They are triangular in shape and, unlike human teeth, they do not have roots. This makes them easier for the shark to replace, which it may do in as short a time as a week.

Unlike you and I, who have only two sets of teeth in our lifetime – our 'milk teeth' and adult teeth, a shark may grow and use thousands of teeth. The record for shark 'toothiness' is held by the Requiem Shark, which grows and discards around THIRTY THOUSAND teeth during its lifetime. This is more than three times the number grown by that notorious star of film and television, the Great White Shark,



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which grows and discards around 10,000 over the course of its life.

Sharks' teeth are made of a very hard calcified tissue called dentin, which is harder than bone and does not break down easily once the shark has discarded it. The dentin, in turn, is covered with a very hard enamel shell. This makes sharks' teeth not only great tools for their modern owners to bite and kill prey, but also one of the most common types of fossil from sharks of prehistoric times.

Strangely though, the prize for the scariest set of teeth must go to the Umbrella slug (*Umbraculum umbraculum*) which can get though an amazing 750,000 teeth in its lifetime. Luckily for us, these colourful little animals are only 12 cm long and feed mainly on sea sponges.

## HOW TO DRAW A PIRATE SHIP



BEGIN WITH THE HULL



STARTING AT THE BOW DRAW MASTS AND SAILS



FINISH OFF AND AWAY YOU GO...

Follow Black John the Bogus Pirate and his crew on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/BlackJohntheBogusPirate/>

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