

Sharks vs People

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FROM: Ruth A. Musgrave
TO: Virtual Team Members
SUBJECT: The Fish Time Forgot, But We Should Not!

Hello Team Shark!

Many people do not realize how long sharks have existed. Their role on earth is important and timeless. Sharks are old. (Not an individual shark, though it turns out they live a lot longer than we knew, but more on that later) I mean as a group, they are old!

How old? Sharks have been around for 435 to 450 million years.

How long is that? Let me put that into a timeline about what has happened since sharks first appeared on earth. Hold on to your hats, because it is a lot.

Since sharks have been on earth, the world shivered through a couple ice ages. Dinosaurs ruled, then died out. Meteors crashed to Earth. Continents united then drifted apart. Oceans grew, shrank, and then dried up. The first flowering plant flowered. Water carved the Grand Canyon. Mammals overtook the world. Volcanoes created the Hawaiian Islands. Whales appeared. Humans roamed. The Pharaohs ruled, then didn't. Humans learned to drive, fly, walk on the moon, moonwalk...and text.

What has happened since you've been on earth?

Why do you think sharks have survived, while other ocean animals have come and gone? Do you think sharks played an important role in the ocean? Why or why not? What do you think sharks' role will be in our future?

In our limited time on the timeline, how have we changed the world for sharks and other animals?

more to come,

Ruth

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