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Sharks are amazing. Even those who are not particularly fans of sharks, or even those who don't swim or like sharks, we should all be thankful for sharks. Sharks, more than we know it, help us greatly and keep us safe. If sharks were to disappear, it would knock the entire aquatic life cycle out of balance as we know it and ruin everything, negatively affecting us also. We should all care about sharks, they help us healthily, financially, and they also help us with pollution and climate change.

Sharks as we know them, are apex predators or "top predators", meaning they are at the top of the food chain, web, or pyramid and do not have natural predators, but animals that also eat sharks. Sharks stop carnivores, secondary predators, from overpopulation. Because sharks exist, they prevent their own, but rare predators such as orcas, sperm whales, and of course, larger sharks from underpopulation. Sharks also keep the amount of coral consumption in order by eating the fish that eat the coral. Coral reefs generate a lot more oxygen than we think. Around 50-80% of the Earth's oxygen is provided from the ocean in general. Coral reefs also absorb about a third of the Earth's carbon dioxide, generated by burning fossil fuels. By eating the waste in the ocean, sharks lower pollution rates, helping with climate change. The internal mechanisms and functions of sharks, and their skin are being used in designs for better airplanes and wind turbines. As stated before, sharks, particularly tiger sharks, are able to digest almost anything, helping prevent further pollution, and destruction of waste. Sharks eat sick, dead, and severely infected fish, preventing

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invasive species and aquatic diseases, such as Columnaris, from spreading. Sharks also prevent the ocean itself, from getting infected by aquatically dangerous bacteria carried through the ocean by smaller fish.

If sharks were to disappear, their rare predators would decrease due to having nothing to eat, the carnivores would vastly increase due to nothing eating them, then all of the herbivores would be gone, and everything else would ultimately starve. I personally, do not recommend it all, due to cruelty, but if it is your culture and sharks were to disappear, there would be no more shark fin soup. Without sharks, if we had no other hopes for oxygen, we'd all ultimately die. Oceans would be immensely infected by aquatically dangerous bacteria and diseases carried by fish that have not been eaten. Many on land animals, also, that depend on the water for food, such as sea birds, bears, and others would also ultimately starve because of the chain reaction of aquatic extinction.

I believe that humans should care about about sharks, they are innocent creatures that are already afraid of us, and usually, only bother us we bother them. Sharks are also great for sightings and tourism, which is another reason to keep sharks safe. One reef shark could be worth at least 2 million American dollars. Most species of shark could be extinct. Shark finning is just generally wrong and cruel. After being tossed back into the ocean, those sharks are left to suffer on the ocean floor,

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slowly bleeding out and technically drowning. Sharks have kept our aquatic life in balance so far as for over 450 million years, now. Sharks do not need us as their next main predators. Sharks are already mainly afraid of two things, dolphins and orcas, also known as killer whales. Dolphins ram themselves into the shark's gills after it eats the dolphins babies. Orcas hunt for and eat the livers of sharks. Also, if the oceans become filled with dying, sick, and overpopulated fish, they'd all become thick slushes of fish carcasses, bacterial goo, and excrement.

We should also care about sharks because they absolutely want nothing to do with us, there is no reason to hunt for, or even bother them. An intense chain reaction would cause all of aquatic life to go extinct, also negatively affecting on land wildlife. Sharks are also just really cool. Many young children find sharks interesting and like to tell people about what they know about them. It would be completely devastating to tell a child that sharks, or any well known animal, has just recently gone extinct. Sharks are also very interesting because they have a sixth main sense. Jelly-filled pores located on the head of a shark, the "Ampullae of Lorenzini", detect electrical and magnetic fields throughout the ocean. More than 11,000 sharks are fished and tossed back into the ocean, just for shark fin soup, seems pretty pointless to me. Sharks prevent the ocean from further pollution by consuming waste, and also release carbon dioxide. If you want to have fun and do good, that's wonderful, but you cannot "catch and release" a shark. The hooks are too dangerous for their mouths,

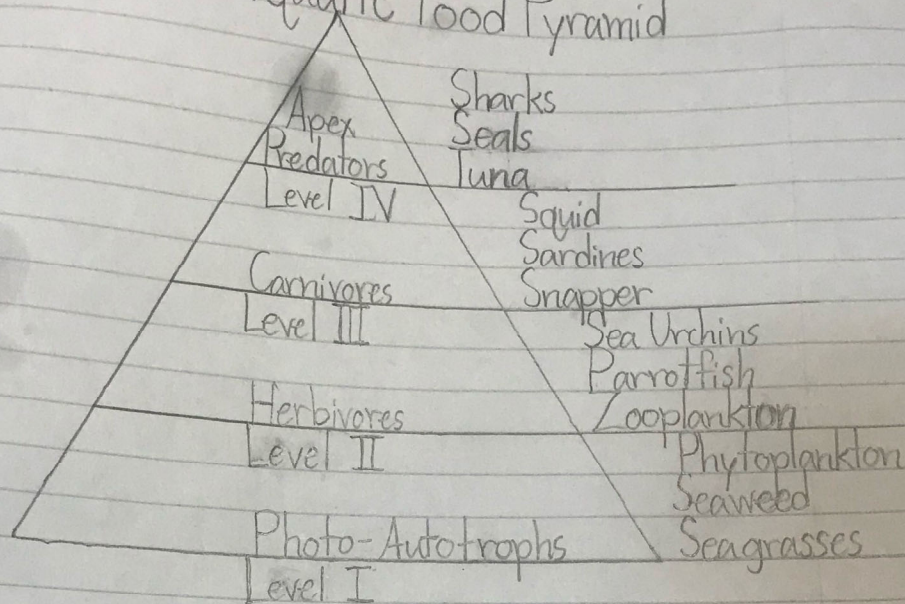
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They are too dependant on the water and once they are put back into the water, they die within a matter of minutes, varying on the type of shark. You should not even be eating shark meat too often, if anything, at all. Shark meat has dangerous amounts of mercury, deeming it illegal.

Sharks help us with so much. The least we could do is to stop torturing them and to leave them alone. We need sharks, but not to consume. We need them for research, designs, climate change, destruction of waste, and more. Overall, we need to protect sharks and keep them safe not only to protect aquatic life, but to protect us, too. Sharks have a crucial part in our entire existence, alone. Sharks protect the sea, help provide oxygen, protect us from climate change, and so much more. We should all be very thankful for sharks.

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A Classic Aquatic Food Pyramid



An Example

All sharks are
completely gone.

