Name _____ Reading informational text (RI.3.1, 4)

Save the Sharks

Sharks—are they scary or supercool? Some people think sharks are scary. They know some big sharks like great whites have rows of sharp, pointy teeth. They know sharks eat meat. Some people think sharks are supercool. They know sharks have been around for hundreds of millions of years. In fact, there were sharks swimming in the oceans when dinosaurs were walking the earth. They also know there are 400 different species, or kinds, of sharks. What else makes sharks supercool? They have amazing senses. Many kinds of sharks can see clearly in the dark parts of the oceans, and most can smell their prey from far away.

Visit a certified and accredited zoo, aquarium, or conservation center. Ask what you can do to help the world's animals!

Sadly, many species of sharks are threatened with **extinction**. This means there is a chance they will die out. Why? Some sharks grow slowly and do not produce a lot of young. This makes their numbers small to begin with. Now, in some parts of the world, people want to use the fins in their food. As a result, sharks have been **overfished**. This means too many have been caught so there aren't enough remaining. No wonder some sharks are threatened with extinction.

What can you do to help the sharks? Don't support stores that sell shark products. Encourage your family to donate to groups that help sharks or help protect ocean life. Share what you know about sharks with others.

Use the passage to complete the tasks and answer the questions.

1. Circle two opinions about sharks in the first paragraph.
2. Underline three different facts about sharks in the first paragraph.
3. What does **extinction** mean? _____

_____

4. What are two reasons the number of sharks is low? _____

_____

_____

5. What is one way you can help sharks? _____

_____

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“Save the Sharks”
Answer Key

1. Some people think sharks are scary. Some people think sharks are supercool.
2. Answers will vary but should include three of the following sentences: They know some big sharks like great whites have rows of sharp, pointy teeth. They know sharks eat meat. They know sharks have been around for hundreds of millions of years. In fact, there were sharks swimming in the oceans when dinosaurs were walking the earth. They also know there are 400 different species, or kinds, of sharks. They have amazing senses. Many kinds of sharks can see clearly in the dark parts of the oceans, and most can smell their prey from far away.
3. the chance an animal species will die out
4. Some sharks grow slowly and do not produce a lot of young. Sharks have been overfished.
5. Answers will vary but should include one of the following sentences: Don’t support stores that sell shark products. Encourage your family to donate to groups that help sharks or that help protect ocean life. Share what you know about sharks with others.

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