

SHARKS ALIVE

A new shark exhibition opens tomorrow at the Science Centre, featuring models, a 350-million-year-old fossil and props from the movie Jaws. The Straits Times looks at the highlights.

- There are more than **500 species of sharks**
- These range from just **17cm to more than 12m long**
- They are found in **every sea of the world** and at depths of more than 2km

SHARK MODELS



Highlight is a 5.5m-long model of a great white shark (right)

There are 12 life-size fibreglass shark models including the thresher (above), lemon, silky and tiger

- Seven types of prehistoric sharks recreated on 40-inch touch-screens (below)
- Visitors can move the sharks and rotate them around on the screen



THE EXHIBITION

- At the Science Centre, from tomorrow to Aug 21, 2011
- Open daily from 10am to 6pm
- Ticket cost: \$8-\$16

FOSSILS

- Include shark teeth, jawbones, skeletons and skulls
- Oldest fossil is a shark tooth at least 350 million years old (left)
- The smallest exhibit is a 5mm-long fossil tooth (left, inset)
- Accompanying panels describe how sharks have several rows of teeth, which makes fossils more likely



SHARK EGGS

- Most sharks give birth to live young, but a few species lay eggs
- On show are two types of eggs, from the leopard and Port Jackson sharks
- Leopard sharks lay eggs with tendrils (right) that get tangled with the seabed and keep them there
- Port Jackson sharks push their corkscrew eggs (far right) into rocky crevices, where their shape stops them from getting loose



GIANT FROZEN FISH

- Specimens are a 220kg mako shark (below, left) and a 300kg tuna (below, right)
- They were transported here in crates packed with dry ice, and are frozen for display in giant ice blocks at minus 20 deg C



PROPS FROM THE 1975 MOVIE JAWS

- Includes the book on which the movie is based, signed by author Peter Benchley



There is also a replica jawbone of the shark used in the movie



FAST FACTS

Total number of exhibits

63

Largest exhibit

5.5m-long model of a great white shark

Number of items on display

More than 25,000

Singapore is the **third country** to feature the exhibition after Australia and the US

SAVING SHARKS

More than **100 million sharks** are killed annually

Two-thirds of these are by illegal shark's fin traders

As of last year, **181 species of sharks** were considered endangered, up from just 15 species in 1996



In Asia, shark's fin can be sold by traders for **S\$250 to S\$700 per kg**

In contrast, shark meat sells for only **S\$5 to S\$20 per kg.**

Source: PLANET SHARK