Tiger Shark

Distinctive vertical stripes and tiger-like power

- They can grow up to 5 metres long and weigh up to 800 kilograms.
- A diverse diet, ranging from dead fish to scraps of metal.
- Their skeleton is made entirely of cartilage (like the cartilage found in our nose and ears). This is lighter and more flexible than bone, making the shark agile when swimming and hunting.
- Skin is made up of thousands of tiny individual structures called denticles, made from similar materials as their razor sharp teeth.
- Tiger sharks are powered by 'Ampullae of Lorenzini', a network of jelly-filled pores that are scattered all over their faces like freckles. These pores can detect electrical impulses from fish in the water, meaning they can find prey in murky waters.
- Tiger sharks use their electro-reception to navigate in our oceans, reading the earth's magnetic field like a compass.
- From a young age, sharks learn to return to their preferred breeding and hunting sites.

Tiger sharks have developed an adaptation to their skin that allows them to minimise friction when swimming through the water.

"Engineers were so impressed by shark skin that they have invented surfaces that mimic these denticles, which are now used on boats and jet planes to reduce drag and increase efficiency"

PHIL BRESLIN,
BUILT TO SURVIVE HOST

Australian Children's Television Foundation | BUILT TO SURVIVE