

SHARK KEY

Purpose: Learn to use a dichotomous scientific key.

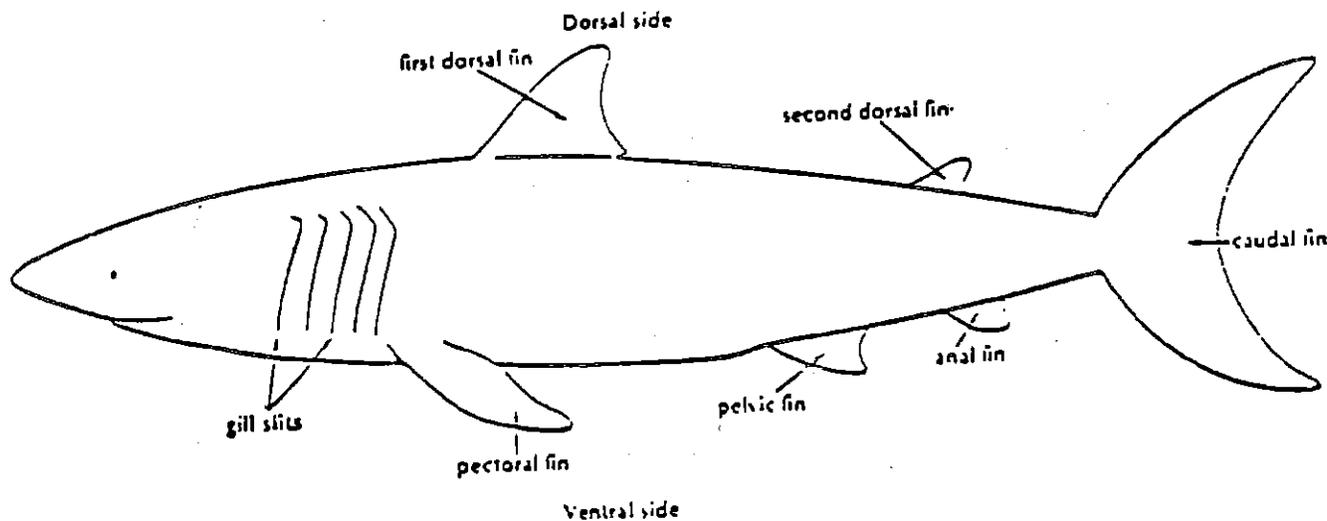
Procedure:

1. Read sentences 1A and 1B of the key. Then study Shark 1 on the next page for the characteristics referred to in 1A and 1B. Follow the directions in these sentences and continue with this process until a family name for Shark 1 is determined.

For example, if the shark has an anal fin and its body is not kite shaped, follow the direction of 1A and go directly to sentence 2. If the shark lacks an anal fin or has a kite shaped body, follow the directions of 1B and go to sentence 10.

2. Continue this process with each shark until all animals have been identified. Write the family name on the line below each animal.

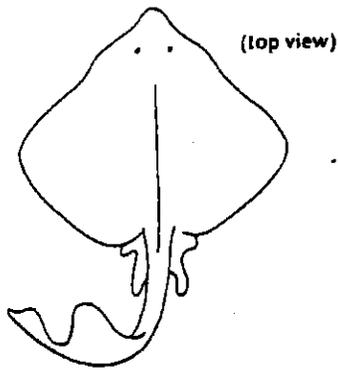
3. Use the drawing below as a guide to the anatomical features used in the key.



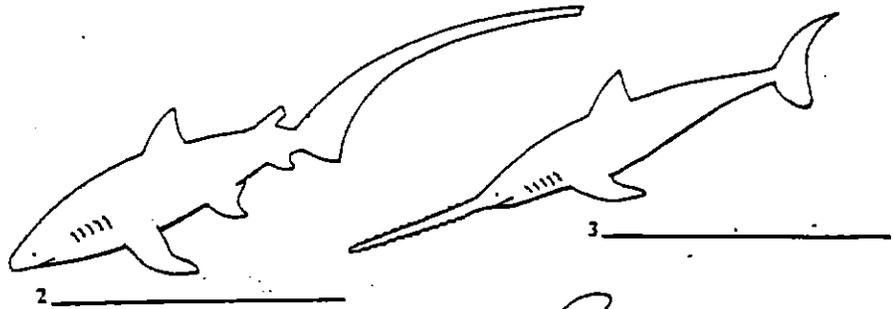
KEY

- 1.A. Body kitelike (if viewed from the top).....Go to 12
- B. Body not kitelike (if viewed from the top).....Go to 2
2. A. Pelvic fin absent.....Family Pristiophoridae
- B. Pelvic fin present.....Go to 3
3. A. Six gill slits present.....Family Hexanchidae
- B. Five gill slits present.....Go to 4
4. A. Only one dorsal fin.....Family Scyliorhinidae
- B. Two dorsal fins.....Go to 5
5. A. Mouth at front of snout rather than on underside of head..... Family Rhinocodontidae
- B. Mouth on underside of head.....Go to 6
6. A. Head expanded on side with eyes at end of expansion.....Family Sphyrmidae
- B. Head not expanded.....Go to 7
- 7.A. Top half of caudal fin exactly same size and shape as bottom half.....Family Isuridae
- B. Top half of caudal fin different in size and shape than bottom half.....Go to 8
- 8.A. First dorsal fin very long, almost half total length of body.....Family Pseudotriakidae
- B. First dorsal fin regular length.....Go to 9
- 9.A. Caudal fin very long, almost as long as entire body.....Family Alopiidae
- B. Caudal fin regular length.....Go to 10
- 10.A. A long point on end of snout.....Family Scapanorhynchidae
- B. Snout without long point.....Go to 11
- 11.A. Anal fin absent.....Family Squalidae
- B. Anal fin present..... Family Carcharhinidae
- 12.A. Small dorsal fin present near tip of tail.....Family Rajidae
- B. No dorsal fin present near tip of tail.....Go to 13
- 13.A. Front of animal with two hornlike appendages.....Family Mobulidae
- B. No hornlike appendages.....Family Dasyatidae

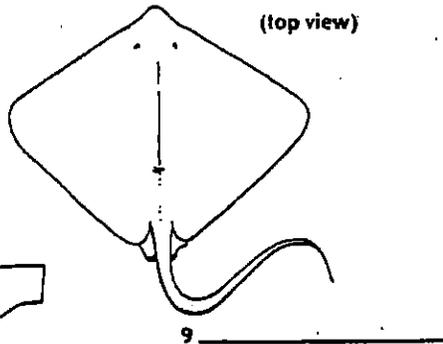
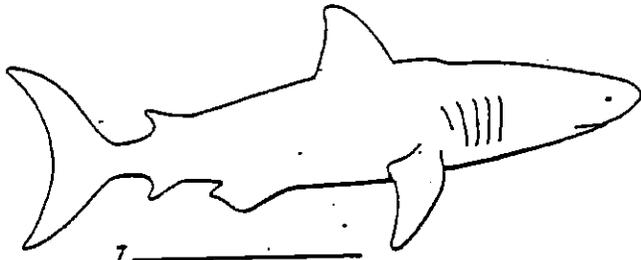
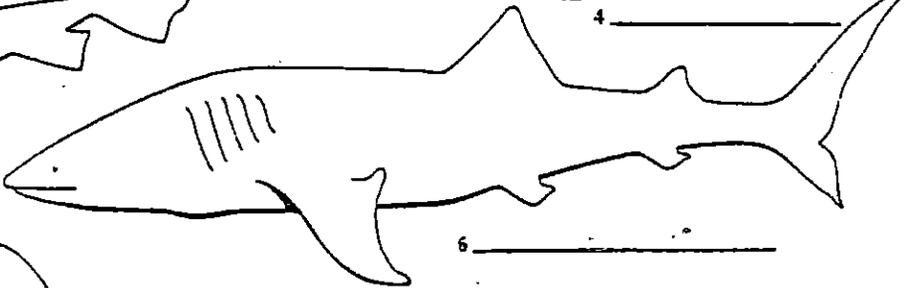
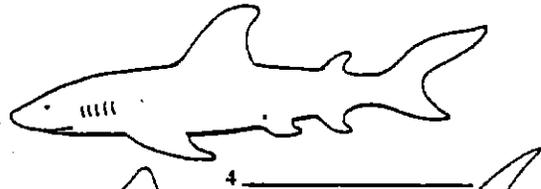
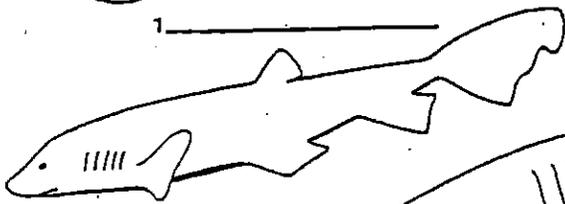
SHARK KEY



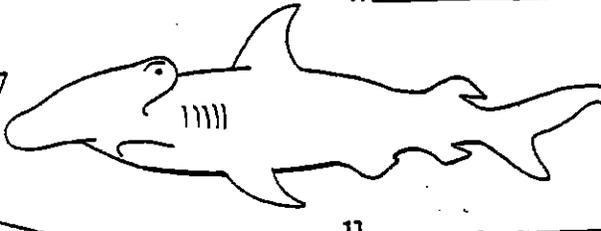
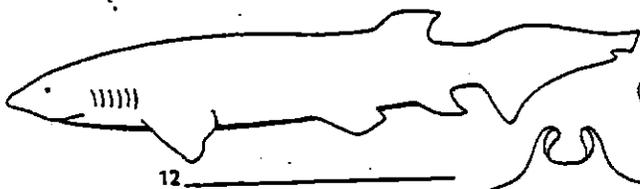
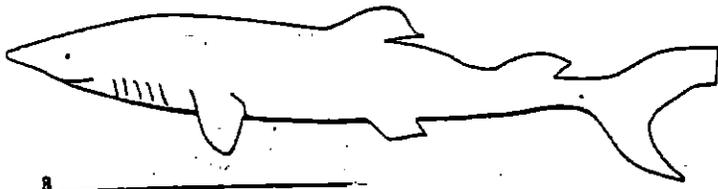
1 _____



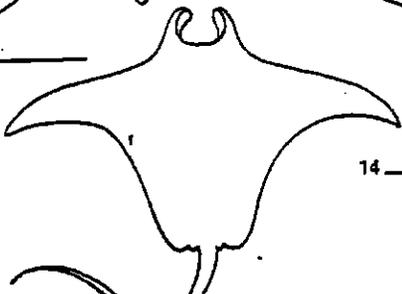
3 _____



9 _____



(top view)



14 _____