

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Giants of the Deep: Exploring the World of Sharks

### Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Whale sharks are filter feeders, meaning they primarily eat plankton and small fish by filtering them out of the water using their specialized gill rakers.
2. Large shark species, such as the great white shark, play crucial roles as top predators in marine ecosystems by regulating prey populations and maintaining the balance of ocean food webs.
3. Conservation challenges facing large shark species include overfishing, habitat destruction, pollution, and climate change, all of which threaten their populations and the health of marine ecosystems.

