

Name _____

Shark Habitats: Exploring the Oceans' Most Diverse Environments

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. One adaptation that allows sharks to thrive in coral reef habitats is their ability to maneuver through complex underwater structures to hunt for prey while utilizing the reef as a hiding place from potential predators.
2. Sharks are considered top predators in their ecosystems because they regulate prey populations, maintain balance within food webs, and have no natural predators.
3. Sharks contribute to maintaining the health and diversity of coral reef ecosystems by controlling prey populations and preventing overgrazing, which helps preserve the delicate balance of these vibrant underwater environments.
4. Some challenges that sharks face in their various habitats include overfishing, habitat destruction, pollution, and climate change, all of which can negatively impact their populations and ecosystems.

