

Name _____

Speed Demons of the Sea: Unraveling the Swimming Secrets of Sharks

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. The shortfin mako shark is one of the fastest sharks in the ocean, capable of swimming at speeds of up to 60 miles per hour in short bursts. It has a streamlined body and a large, crescent-shaped tail that allow it to slice through the water with remarkable agility and speed.
2. The streamlined bodies of sharks help reduce drag and increase swimming efficiency by minimizing resistance as they move through the water. This allows sharks to conserve energy and maintain higher speeds over longer distances.
3. Factors that can affect the speed of a shark's swimming include its species, size, age, physical condition, and environmental factors such as water temperature and currents. Additionally, hunting tactics and prey behavior can also influence a shark's swimming speed.

