

# Megalodon: The Largest Shark That Ever Lived

## Fact or Fiction?

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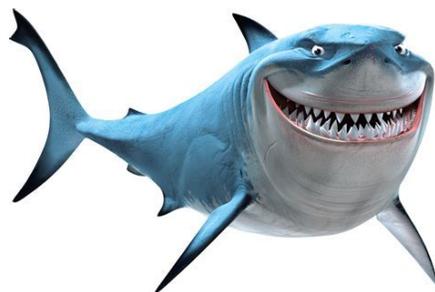
The Western Heritage Museum and Lea County Cowboy Hall of Fame is preparing to open this special exhibit. I thought that it might be fun to test our knowledge about Megalodon and other sharks. The questions are on our website - you can download them.

For those watching the video —

- If you think the statement is a fact (give a thumb-up). If you think the statement is a fiction (give a thumb-down).
- Remember, a “fact” is supported by scientific research and a “fiction” is not true or just “made up.”

### Fact or Fiction

- |     |   |      |         |
|-----|---|------|---------|
| 1.  | Megalodon is still alive.   | FACT | FICTION |
| 2.  | Megalodon and Great White sharks lived at the same time.          | FACT | FICTION |
| 3.  | Megalodon was an herbivore.                                       | FACT | FICTION |
| 4.  | Megalodon was the largest shark that ever lived.                  | FACT | FICTION |
| 5.  | You can estimate the size of a Megalodon by studying their teeth. | FACT | FICTION |
| 6.  | Stingrays are related to sharks.                                  | FACT | FICTION |
| 7.  | The chance of being attacked by a shark is very high.             | FACT | FICTION |
| 8.  | Megalodon and T-Rex lived during the same time period.            | FACT | FICTION |
| 9.  | Megalodon lived in all of the ancient oceans in the world.        | FACT | FICTION |
| 10. | Fossilized shark teeth are very rare.                             | FACT | FICTION |



## ANSWERS

1. Megalodon is still alive. **FICTION**

Megalodon was the dominant marine predator 2 million years ago. Scientists agree that the giant shark is now extinct.

2. Megalodon and Great White sharks lived at the same time. **FACT**

It is true that the that both the Megalodon and the Great White shark lived during the same time period. However, Megalodon went extinct while the Great White Shark still swims the oceans.

3. Megalodon was an herbivore. **FICTION**

Megalodon was a carnivore – a meat eater. His favorite prey was the Baleen Whale. He ate about 2,500 lbs. of food every day! That’s a ton (a little over)!

4. Megalodon was the largest shark that ever lived. **FACT**

Megalodon is estimated to be 60 feet long and weigh 50 – 70 tons. The largest Great White Shark is about 21 feet long.

5. You can estimate the size of a Megalodon by studying their teeth. **FACT**

Scientists look to living sharks for clues as to how to estimate Megalodon’s size.

6. Stingrays are related to sharks. **FACT**

Yes, rays, skates and ratfish are related to sharks.

7. The chance of being attacked by a shark is very high. **FICTION**

Shark attacks on humans are very rare. By comparison, you are more likely to die in a bicycle accident than by a shark attack.

8. Megalodon and T-Rex lived during the same time period. **FICTION**

T-Rex lived around 65 million years ago. Megalodon live about 17-2 million years ago.

9. Megalodon lived in all of the oceans of the world. **FACT**

Megalodon teeth have been discovered at sites around the world.

10. Fossilized shark teeth are very rare. **FICTION**

Shark teeth are the most commonly collected fossils.

How did you do? Once we are open, we invite you to visit, *Megalodon: Largest Shark that Ever Lived*, the exhibit created by the Florida Museum at the University of Florida. You will discover additional true facts about this incredible prehistoric animal and be amazed as you walk through the life-sized 60-foot Megalodon sculpture. There are more than 100 objects from numerous collections including fossilize vertebrae, modern shark specimens and a shark tooth study center where you can compare 52 species on display. Until we are open, you can learn more by watching our Megalodon videos posted on YouTube. Educator resources are available on our website [www.nmjc.edu/museum](http://www.nmjc.edu/museum).