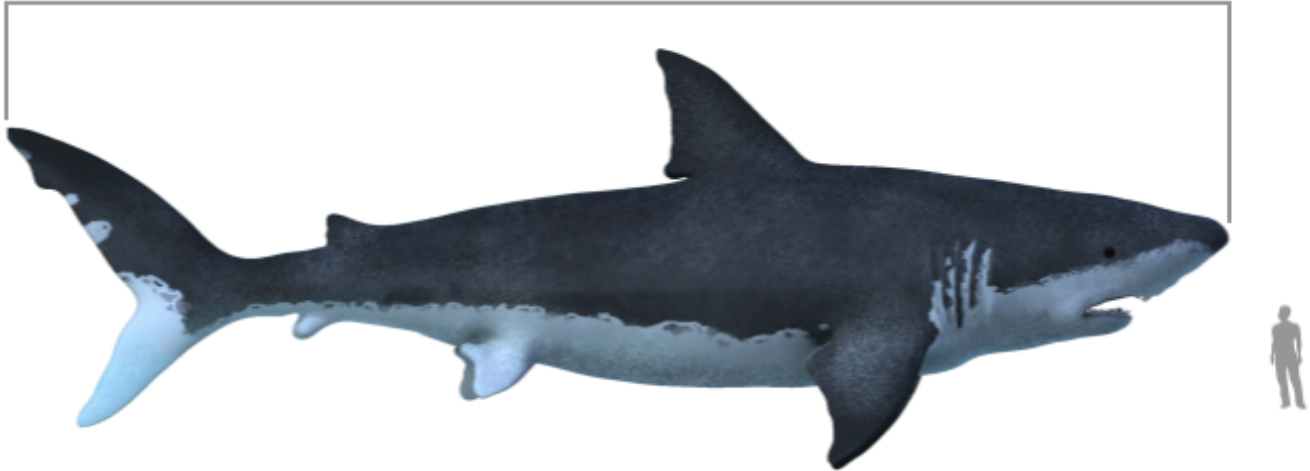


About the Megalodon Shark

20 meters (60 feet)



The Megalodon is a massive, extinct species of shark that lived from 28 to 1.5 million years ago. It is the largest known marine predator to ever have lived.

- The Megalodon could reach a length of about 60 feet (18 meters) and weigh over 100 tons based on current size estimates.
- The largest Megalodon tooth ever found was nearly 7 ½ inches long, compared to 3 inches for the largest modern Great White shark.
- The Megalodon had a mouthful of nearly 200 teeth, and like modern sharks, their teeth were frequently replaced as the shark grew or teeth became damaged.
- The Megalodon's primary prey was large, marine mammals including whales and sea lions.
- Megalodon had a global distribution; living in warm, shallow water where prey was plentiful.
- The Bone Valley area of Florida is believed to have been a Megalodon nursing area, partially due to the presence of huge numbers of teeth from juveniles.
- Megalodon teeth are relatively common fossils though their skeletons were not preserved because they were made of cartilage (not bone) that rarely fossilizes.
- The Megalodon went extinct between 1.5 and 2.5 million years ago as climate changes caused the earth's oceans to cool significantly. This cooling trend adversely impacted the Megalodon and its prey that lived in warm waters.





FossilEra.com