

**SF Table 4.1.** Comparison of sharks with bony fishes

<b>Structure or characteristic</b>	<b>Sharks</b>	<b>Bony fishes</b>
Skeleton	Cartilage; tough and flexible	
Fins	No fin rays; fins are relatively inflexible; pectoral fins are used as "wings" to produce lift as shark swims. Caudal fin used to propel the shark forward.	
Scales	Toothlike placoid scales in dermis make skin rough and sandpapery.	
Spiracle	A small opening leading to the gill chamber through which water passes for respiration. Not all sharks have visible spiracles.	
Gill opening	Most species have five gill slits; some have six, some seven.	
Gas bladder	No gas bladder; most sharks must swim continuously to stay afloat.	
Respiration	Most species must swim continuously with mouth open to force water over the gills. A few species can pump water over the gills.	
Skin	Thick, tough, and durable; can be used as leather.	
Teeth	Large, sharp, and serrated in most species; smaller in a few species. All sharks have several rows of teeth that constantly regenerate.	