

# Atlantic Ocean



## About the exhibit:

- Our Atlantic Ocean exhibit is the largest tank in the U.K., at **10.5m deep**, holding 2.5million litres of water—that’s enough to have a bath every day for 85 years!
- The animals in this exhibit are usually found in tropical waters like the Caribbean, so the water is kept at a toasty **25°C**.

## Who lives here?

This exhibit is home to **11 sharks** from **5 different species**. As well as 2 species of **stingray**, a green **turtle**, and 52 different types of fish. Here are some of the exhibit’s biggest characters:

### Green Turtle

- **Name:** Friday
- **Age:** late 30s
- **Favourite Food:** Peppers (although he loves to steal squid!)
- **Fun fact:** Green turtles help to keep *seagrass* meadows and *coral reefs* healthy They graze on the seagrass, promoting its growth, and eat algae that reduces the survival of coral.



### Eagle Rays:

- **Name:** Kitts, Cuba, Vincent
- **Age:** All 8 years old
- **Favourite Food:** Crunchy crabs
- **Fun fact:** Eagle rays have several *venomous barbs* at the base of their tail to defend themselves. Eagle rays use their pointy nose to dig through the sand in search of food.



### Lemon Shark

- **Name:** Citron
- **Age:** late 30s
- **Favourite Food:** Mackerel
- **Fun fact:** Lemon sharks usually live to be around 25 years old, making Citron the *oldest* lemon shark in the country, and the oldest shark at the aquarium.



### Sand-tiger Sharks

- **Name:** Howie, Ushaka, Mandela
- **Age:** late 20s, 6, 4
- **Favourite Food:** Squid
- **Fun fact:** Howie is the *largest* shark at the aquarium, at 2.5 m, this makes her the dominant female and overall boss of the tank!



## Why don't the sharks eat the fish?

- Our sharks are **target trained**. They swim to a target so we can give them their food directly. This helps them to know where their food comes from!
- Sharks are lazy! To save energy, sharks hunt weak fish (e.g. sick). This makes them really **important for us**—they help to keep fish populations healthy, including ones we eat!

## How can we help sharks?

- Sharks are accidentally caught in fishing nets (bycatch), or targeted for use in certain products. Buying fish that has been caught using targeted methods, e.g. pole and line, and avoiding products that contain shark meat can reduce this.
- Help spread the word about how amazing and important sharks are to encourage others to help them too!