

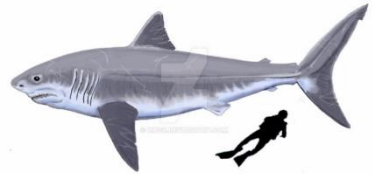


Shark Teeth - Fossilised



A tooth becomes a fossil when it is buried in sediment (or other material) soon after being lost from a shark's mouth. In general it takes approximately 10,000 years for a tooth to become a true fossil.

These teeth belong to *Otodus*, which is an extinct genus of mackerel shark from ancient seabeds under the deserts of North Africa. The teeth of this



shark are large with triangular crown, smooth cutting edges, and visible cusps on the roots. The fossils of *Otodus* indicate that it was a very large macro-predatory shark. The largest known teeth measure about 104 millimetres in height.

Although precise dating is difficult, they are believed to have come from the Eocene epoch in the Paleogene period in the Cenozoic era, which would make them between 30 and 50 million years old.

While these Shark teeth are incredible relics of shark evolution and biology, they are not exceptionally rare. Several teeth in a larger piece of matrix have typically been positioned there and while the teeth are natural, they have not been found in a clump such as this.

