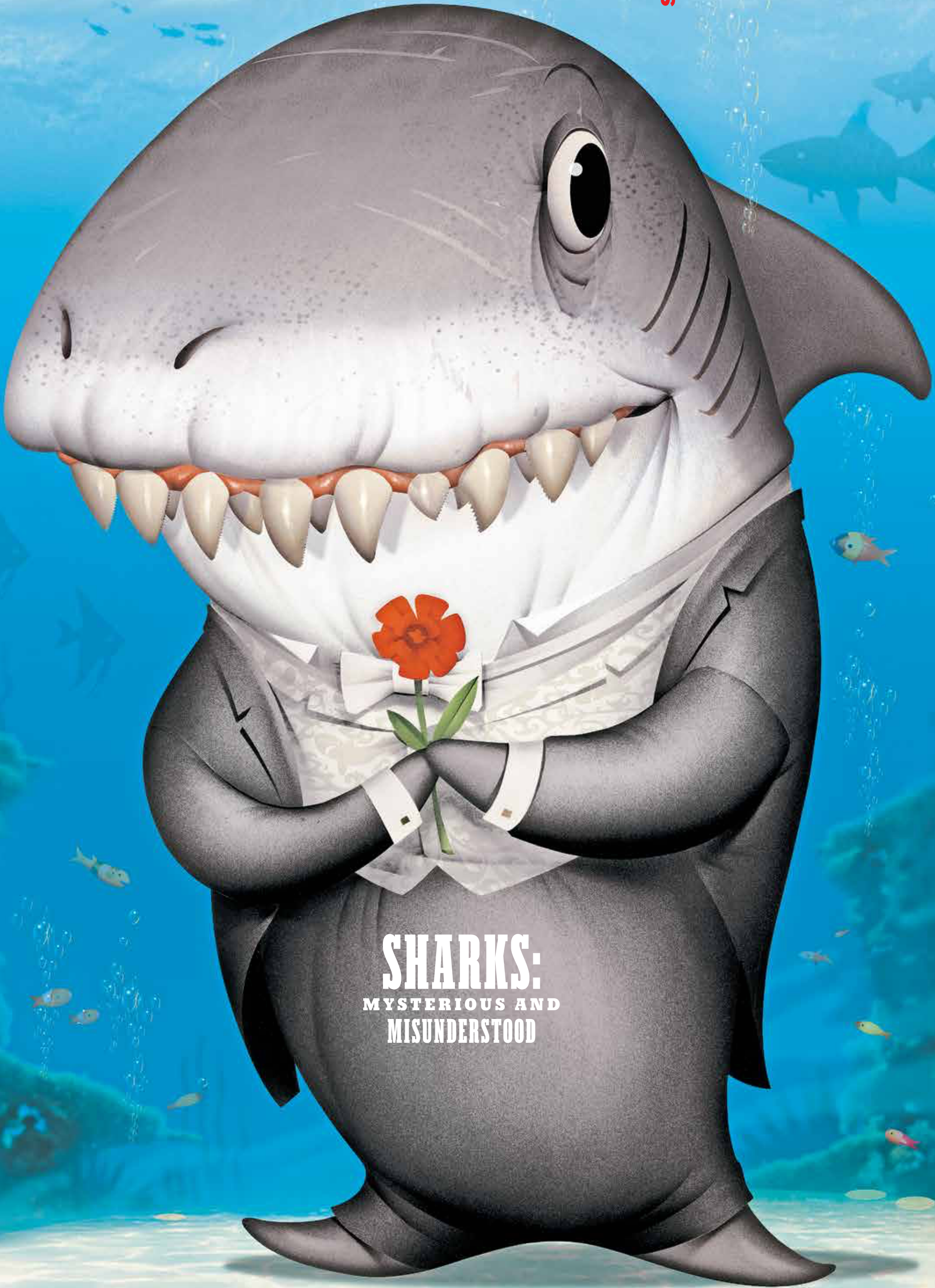


# The New York Times

For Kids



## SHARKS: MYSTERIOUS AND MISUNDERSTOOD

AFTER YEARS OF SEEING THEM  
AS SOLITARY HUMAN-KILLERS, WE ARE FINALLY LEARNING WHAT SHARKS ARE REALLY LIKE.  
NEW RESEARCH REVEALS THEY'RE SOCIAL,  
TRAVEL GREAT DISTANCES AND HAVE NO INTEREST IN ATTACKING US.

GIRLS  
**REVIEW**  
THE BOY SCOUTS

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WHY YOUR FRIENDS'  
**PARENTS**  
ARE COOLER THAN  
YOURS

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THE  
**6 CRAZIEST**  
WATER PARKS

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**NASA GOES**  
TO THE  
**SUN**

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WHY  
**PIMPLES**  
ARE IN

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# Travel



## A WORLDWIDE TOUR OF WATER PARKS

BY CHELSEA LEU

There is no better way to stay cool in the summer than in a pool. And the only thing better than a pool is a water park, full of massive waves, huge drops and the slipperiest, scariest rides. We've picked out the best of the best so you can splash, slide and cannonball your way through the rest of the summer.

### 1. BEACH PARK

Aquiraz, Brazil

The ideal view of this sprawling, palm-tree-filled water park is from the top of Insano, one of the tallest and fastest free-standing water slides in the world. Sliders descend a stomach-dropping 135 feet — the height of a 13-story building — in five seconds, hitting top speeds of 65 miles per hour.

### 2. AREA 47

Ötztal-Bahnhof, Austria

Built in the Alps, this extreme outdoor playground features attractions like a water catapult, in which a water jet blasts you out of a metal seat into a lake. Or try blobbing, in which one person is launched more than 10 feet into the air from a giant floating air cushion when another person leaps onto it.

### 3. SIAM PARK

Costa Adeje, Tenerife, Canary Islands

Among the decorative dragons, stone sculptures and temples in this Thai-themed water park is the Wave Palace, a gargantuan pool that generates some of the biggest artificial waves in the world. Learn to surf on breakers nearly 10 feet high, or relax on the white-sand beach next to the pool.

### 4. WILD WADI WATERPARK

Dubai, United Arab Emirates

This park is host to two thrilling rides: Tantrum Alley, which flings riders through three huge funnel-shaped structures called tornadoes, and Jumeirah Sceirah, in which you're locked into a capsule at the top of a 104-foot tower and then dropped through a trap door into a near-vertical tube to reach speeds of up to 50 miles per hour before splashing down.

### 5. NOAH'S ARK

Wisconsin Dells, Wis.

Wisconsin Dells calls itself the "water-park capital of the world," and for good reason: The city contains approximately one water slide for every 13 residents. At Noah's Ark, a 10-story-tall, 400-foot-long slide called the Scorpion's Tail sends people free-falling and then hurtles them through a giant angled loop — a disorienting, exhilarating experience. It was the first almost-vertical loop water slide in the United States.

### 6. TROPICAL ISLANDS

Krausnick, Germany

The world's largest indoor water park — 350 feet tall and more than 1,000 feet long — used to house airships called zeppelins. Now it's a tropical paradise, with a "sea" the size of three Olympic swimming pools and a lush rain forest of 600 different plant species, populated with pheasants, peacocks and geckoes. All splashed out? Take a hot-air balloon ride inside the dome. ♦



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### HOW I BECAME A

## DIPLOMAT



BY MARIE YOVANOVITCH,  
U.S. AMBASSADOR  
TO UKRAINE

**MY PARENTS WERE** teachers at a boarding school in a small town: Kent, Conn. They were both immigrants from Europe — my father was born in Siberia, and my mother grew up in Germany during World War II, so for me, the world was much bigger than Kent.

Because I attended a boarding school, there were a number of kids who came from foreign countries and whose parents were diplomats. That's how I found out that you can be paid to represent your country overseas. You can live around the world and meet new people and learn about new cultures for our government.

After college, where I studied history, I took the foreign-service exam, which is how you qualify to work for the State Department, the branch of government that handles our international affairs. There are questions about everything: music and architecture, the Civil War and the goings-on in the Philippines. There's also an oral exam, and you have to pass a security clearance. The first time, I failed the grammar section, but I studied up, took it again and passed.

For my first job, I moved to Mogadishu, Somalia. This was before the internet, and it took three months from the time I wrote a letter to the time I got one back. I've also worked in London, Moscow, Ottawa and Uzbekistan — as well as at the Operations Center of the State Department in Washington, where you learn about breaking developments, some of which won't be ever be in the news. In 2005, I became an ambassador for the first time and went to Kyrgyzstan. I have also served as the ambassador to Armenia and as a dean of the Foreign Service Institute.

In 2016, I became the ambassador to Ukraine, two years after the country's revolution. It's my job to represent the United States' interests here and help Ukraine be a more secure, prosperous and democratic country. Every day is different. One day, I'm helping American businesses set up here, then I'm working on an energy issue, then on election law. It's the greatest profession in the world. *As told to Elise Craig*

### SOLUTIONS

MINIPIZZLES  
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#### EASY

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#### HARD

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## KIDS RECOMMEND HOMETOWN HOT SPOTS



**HAVING FUN** in the summer doesn't necessarily mean going on vacation — there's tons to do in your own backyard! You just have to go out and look. We asked kids from all around the country where they'd take a friend who was visiting. What would you recommend in your hometown? *BY ASHLEY C. FORD*

**SKYE NUGENT, 12**  
Waterford, Conn.

I would go to Waterford Beach and have a picnic with hot dogs and chips. The sunset is really beautiful there, and there are rocks to climb on and a raft you can swim out to. To get to Waterford Beach, you have to go over dunes and follow trails, and it can be a whole real adventure.

**ISIAH McRAE, 10**  
New York

I would take another kid to the Empire State Building, because it's tall, and there is a lot of stuff to do in there. I would also take them to Madison Square Garden. I went there to see wrestlers like John Cena. My favorite wrestler is Edge, but if you go, you can root for whatever wrestler you like the most.

**AUBREY McCRAANEY, 13**  
Fort Wayne, Ind.

At Yummi Bunni, we could get ice cream in almost any flavor. There's a selfie wall, where you can pose to remember

your time there. Or we would go to the TinCaps baseball game, where they have fireworks some nights. While you're watching the game, you can enjoy a view of the city with everyone around laughing and having fun.

**AZALEA UPSHAW, 9**  
Tampa, Fla.

I would go to the Glazer Children's Museum. When I went there, there was a room for art, and I really, really love arts and crafts. There was also a dance party there, where you could dance with your friends. It's a place where you can just show your talent and be yourself around other people. ♦



THE END