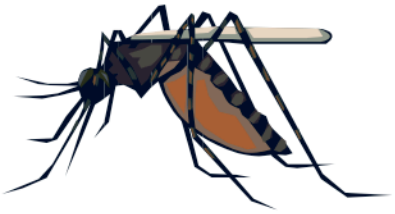
Tigers, Sharks, and Mosquitoes



The animals were all gathered around, bragging about who was scariest. Each of them boasted about what made them scariest. Giraffe went first.

"I have a really long neck!" Giraffe announced. Everyone laughed. Giraffe wasn't scary at all.

"I'm fast and have a sharp horn." Rhino pawed at the ground with his feet. Everyone got out of the way in case he started to charge.

"I'm really big," said elephant, waving his tusks back and forth. "People don't want to get stepped on."

"I can eat elephants." Tiger scoffed. "You're nothing compared to my claws and teeth." He growled and everyone gave him room.

"I'm poisonous." Spider hissed.

"You're so tiny, though. I'm the biggest creature on earth!" Blue whale declared. He really did take up a lot of space. He was much bigger even than the elephant.

"No one is scared of whales. Men fear me. I'm a man-eater." Great White smiled toothily.

Tiger didn't want to be outdone. He snarled. "I can bite and tear apart anything."

Great White grinned. "No one wants to swim when I'm around."

"I'm super fast!" Tiger shouted. Everyone else was just watching these two argue now. It seemed like one of them would win the contest as the scariest animal.

Great White laughed. "I'm fast too, but my rows of teeth are horrifying!"

"I'm the scariest. You guys are nothing compared to me." A very soft, whiny voice said.

"Who said that?" Tiger and Great White shouted angrily. For once, they were in agreement. No one should be scarier than them.

"Men fear my bite far worse than a shark or a cat." The little voice called out.

"Who are you?" Tiger and Great White demanded. "Show yourself."

Out flew a little bug. Mosquito revealed herself. "I am the scariest of all."

"How?" Asked Tiger.

Mosquito laughed. "Don't you know? A single bite from me can make someone sick. I am a horrible pest. There are millions of us in every swamp, and we feed on the strongest and fastest animals just the same. Nothing escapes our bites!"

Tiger and Great White grew quiet. No one challenged Mosquito as the scariest creature. They all ran away when she came near. She was definitely the scariest.

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Tigers, Sharks, and Mosquitoes

Use the information in the story to answer the questions below.

1. What are the animals arguing about?
   A. Who is fastest?
   B. Who is prettiest?
   C. Who is scariest?
   D. Who is nicest?

2. Which animals thought they were scary because they were big?
   A. elephant and zebra
   B. elephant and blue whale
   C. blue whale and rhino
   D. rhino and giraffe

3. Which animal wasn't scary at all, so everyone laughed?
   A. Spider
   B. Giraffe
   C. Blue Whale
   D. Tiger

4. Which two animals argued the most about being scariest?
   A. Tiger and Squirrel
   B. Great White and Monkey
   C. Rhino and Giraffe
   D. Great White and Tiger

5. Which creature ended up being the scariest of all?
   A. Tiger
   B. Spider
   C. Great White
   D. Mosquito

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Tigers, Sharks, and Mosquitoes – Answer Key

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