



# Megalodon

Means "big tooth"

Scientific name: *Carcharodon megalodon* or *Carcharocles megalodon*

## Period:

Middle Miocene – Late Pliocene  
(~ 15.9 – 2.6 Ma)

## Diet:

Carnivore

## Current day location found:

Cosmopolitan distribution

## More information:

Megalodon was an enormous shark that lived long after the dinosaurs disappeared. It grew up to 18m (59') in length. This would have made it even bigger than a whale shark! Scientists believe it appeared like an enormous Great White shark, but was more heavily built. It is believed that its great size was possibly due to it having a diet that included large cetaceans (whale type animals).

The scientific name of the creature is debated based on differing views on the scientific family it belongs to, making it either *Carcharodon megalodon* or *Carcharocles megalodon*. It is usually shortened to *C. Megalodon* as a result. Megalodon means "big tooth" because they can be over 18cm (7.1") long.