



Fossilised Sharks Teeth

A tooth become a fossil when it is buried in sediment (or other material) soon after being lost from a shark's mouth. The sediment precludes oxygen and harmful bacteria from reaching the tooth and destroying it. The general fossilization process varies greatly depending on the exact situation. In general it takes approximately 10,000 years for a tooth to become a true fossil.

The fossil shark teeth offered at Fascinating Facets come from ancient seabeds under the deserts of North Africa. 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. Shark teeth are incredible relics of shark evolution and biology.



Because shark skeletons are composed entirely of cartilage,

often the only parts of the shark to survive as fossils are the teeth. Fossil shark teeth have been dated back



epoch. The start of the the first modern extinction event called or "Great Break" in

impact of one or more large bolides in Siberia. As with other geologic periods, the strata that define the start and end of the epoch are well identified, though their exact dates are slightly uncertain.

hundreds of millions of years. The most ancient types of sharks date back to 450 million years ago, and they are mostly known from their fossilized teeth. The most common, however, are from the Cenozoic Era (65 million years ago). The Eocene epoch ($55.8 \pm 0.2 - 33.9 \pm 0.1$ Ma) is a major division of the geologic timescale and the second epoch of the Palaeogene period in the Cenozoic era. The Eocene spans the time from the end of the Paleocene epoch to the beginning of the Oligocene Eocene is marked by the emergence of mammals. The end is set at a major Grande Coupure (the mass extinction continuity), which may be related to the

In Morocco there is a burgeoning industry operated in many cases by ordinary people discovering, excavating and preparing fossils for sale. These people often use the most basic of tools in their work but the sale of the fossils they recover have become their sole livelihood in many cases.