

1  The differences between ovoviviparous, oviparous, and viviparous.  
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2  To start

- Just in case you don't know what ovoviviparous, oviparous, and viviparous are, they are the ways that Sharks, skates, rays and Marine mammals reproduce.

3  Differences

- The differences between these reproductive styles of animals are not only visual. Each of these reproductive styles has a different way of producing their young.

4  Ovoviviparous

- **This is the reproductive style that contains sharks and rays. Ovoviviparous exhibit internal fertilization. The eggs are formed in the mother. The eggs are retained but are not nourished by the mother. To the left is a lemon shark pup being born.**

5  Ovoviviparous

- Up until recently we were pretty certain that in sharks the mother does not nourish the young. However, after recent studies we have found that some of the eggs are attached to the amniotic sac. This would thus mean that there is a possibility that the mother shark is nourishing the egg

6  Ovoviviparous

- The gestation period for sharks can be up to two years, depending on the shark. Also depending on the shark, there may be a live birth or the shark may lay eggs. The Great White shark usually has one to two pups during birth, but bigger sharks like the whale shark can have up to 100 pups.

7  Oviparous

- This is the reproductive style that contains the skates and rays. Oviparous exhibit internal fertilization, also they lay eggs. They lay what some people call mermaid's purses. Because they are benthic, Skates lay these eggs in the sand where the hook like tendrils hold on to seaweed and other things.

8  Oviparous

- Skates usually have about a 6 to 12 month gestation period depending on the species.

9  Viviparous

- This is the reproductive style that contains the whales and sea mammals. Viviparous exhibit internal fertilization. The eggs are formed in the mother. There is a placenta and an amniotic sac. Therefore the mother nurtures the fetus.

10  Viviparous

- The gestation period for whales can be from 10 to 14 months depending on the whale. Whales give birth to only one pup, however twins are possible.

11  To end

- The thought that sharks may be nurturing their fetus by means of a placenta would suggest that sharks are evolving in that way. The question is, what could that mean for other animals? Are they still evolving today?

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- <http://whale.wheelock.edu/archives/whalenet96/0182.html>
- <http://www.assateague.com/skate-cs.html>

- <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Skate>
- [www.google.com](http://www.google.com)
- [www.ask.com](http://www.ask.com)