Greater Cleveland Aquarium

SHARKS! 2.0

Teacher Guide

Theme: Shark Adaptations

Grade Band: 6-8

Program Length: 1 hour 30min



Overview

Students come face-to-face with these magnificent creatures and investigate their unique adaptations. In a classroom introduction, students learn how scientists track and study sharks. Students compare and contrast sharks to bony fish and discover what makes sharks thrive as top predators in the ocean biome. On the aquarium tour, students observe several shark species and interact with stingrays in the touch pool. By the end of the program, students will understand why sharks and rays should be revered, not feared.

Goal

Students develop enthusiasm and a deeper understanding of sharks. Students will appreciate the role sharks play in the aquatic environment and recognize the importance of shark conservation.

Objectives

- 1. Students identify the importance of sharks as predators.
- 2. Students identify how adaptations are necessary for the survival of sharks. Special emphasis is placed on shark teeth, skin, and sense adaptations.
- 3. Students compare and contrast the anatomy of sharks, rays, and bony fish.
- 4. Students recognize the importance of shark conservation and identify three threats to sharks.

Standards

Grade	Strand	Торіс	Content Statement
6	Life Science	Cellular and Multicellular	Living systems at all levels of organization demonstrate the complementary nature of structure and function.
7	Life Science	Cycles of Matter and Flow of Energy	Matter is transferred continuously between one organism and another and between organisms and their physical environments.
7	Life Science	Cycles of Matter and Flow of Energy	In any particular biome, the number, growth and survival of organisms and populations depend on biotic and abiotic factors.
8	Life Science	Species and Reproduction	Diversity of species occurs through gradual processes over many generations. Fossil records provide evidence that changes have occurred in number and types of species.
8	Life Science	Species and Reproduction	Reproduction is necessary for the continuation of every species.
8	Life Science	Species and Reproduction	The characteristics of organisms are a result of inherited traits received from parents.
5-8	Inquiry		Think critically and logically to connect evidence and explanations.

Vocabulary

Shark	Cartilaginous Fish	Fusiform
Stingray	Bony Fish	Heterocercal
Adaptation	Conservation	Elasmobranch
Predator	Dermal Denticle	Electroreception
Prey	Swim Bladder	Symbiosis

Pre-Activities

Lessons to help prepare your students and enhance your field trip experience:

- 1. Create an ocean food chain.
 - Review the terms producer, herbivore, carnivore, and decomposer.
 Investigate what kinds of organisms fill each of these roles in an ocean habitat.
 - b. Have students design a food chain with a shark as the top predator. Students can choose any number of shark species; different sharks eat different prey. Example:
 Phytoplankton Zooplankton Sardine Mackerel Tuna Great White Shark.
 - c. For a creative presentation, scroll down to view the "Ocean Food Web Foldable" on this blog: <u>http://bookishways.blogspot.com/2011/12/unit-resource-portfolio-oceans.html</u>
- 2. Fish Anatomy
 - a. Fish have many different kinds of fins. What are they called and what are they used for?
 - i. Department of Natural Resources is a great reference: <u>http://www.dnr.sc.gov/fish/anatomy.html</u>
 - ii. Check out the worksheet pages at the end of this teacher guide.
 - b. Pass out pictures of various fish species. Have students identify the parts of the fish they already know. Mouth, eyes, gills, scales, and tail may already be familiar.
 - c. Introduce the terms: lateral line, anterior dorsal fin, posterior dorsal fin, caudal fin, anal fin, pelvic fin, and pectoral fin.
 - i. Have students identify and label these parts on their fish picture.
 - d. Different species of fish have different shapes and arrangements of fins. Have students compare and contrast their fish to a partner's.
 - e. Lead a discussion on why different fish have different shapes, sizes, and fins. They live in different habitats, eat different foods, move in different ways, fulfill different niches, etc.
 - f. During the aquarium field trip, we will compare the anatomy of sharks to bony fish.
- Familiarize the students with the aquarium by viewing the aquarium map and by visiting the Greater Cleveland Aquarium website: www.greaterclevelandaquarium.com
- 4. Preview the animals we have on exhibit on our animal facts website:

http://m.greaterclevelandaquarium.com

Post-Activities

- 1. Interview a shark
 - a. Assign students a research partner and a shark species. An extensive database of shark species can be found at the following website http://www.shark.ch/Database/Distribution/index.html
 - b. Have students generate a list of questions they want to ask the shark. For example: What do you eat? Do you sleep? Where in the world do you live? Do you have any friends? How fast can you swim? Etc.
 - c. Students research the answer to their questions using computers or print resources.
 - d. Have students present their findings in an interesting way. For example: type a news story, perform a skit, film the interview with one student as the shark, write a creative story using the facts, etc.
- 2. Shark Graphing Activities
 - a. Draw a shark using graph coordinates: <u>http://mathcrush.com/graph/ws_graph_shark_pv.gif</u>
 - b. There are a number of lessons on the Ocearch website including oceanography, biology, physics, math, data and graphing, and chemistry. Click on the grades 6-8 tab to view lessons: <u>http://www.ocearch.org/#curriculum</u>. Educational PowerPoints are also provided.
- 3. This guide from the National Park Service includes great background information on a number of shark species. It also includes lesson plans and worksheets on shark anatomy and adaptations.

http://www.nps.gov/calo/forteachers/upload/Shark%20traveling%20trunk%20curriculum%20g uide.pdf

4. The Enchanted Learning website includes background information on sharks and rays. It also has math, science, geography, poetry, and English activities. http://www.enchantedlearning.com/subjects/sharks/classroom/Classroomweblinks.shtml



Additional Resources

Ocearch http://www.ocearch.org/

Shark Tagging Video https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dkyDDqofNPc

National Geographic <u>http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2005/06/0613_050613_sharkfacts.html</u> <u>http://animals.nationalgeographic.com/animals/sharks/</u>

National Geographic Kids – Great White Shark http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/animals/great-white-shark/

The Shark Research Institute http://www.sharks.org/

Florida Museum of Natural History – Department of Ichthyology http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/fish/



Education Department

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Shark Anatomy Worksheet



http://www.sea-explorer.org/id22.html



www.sea-explorer.org