

MISSION August 2021 CONSERVATION

Sharks

This month's theme is all about sharks! Sharks are some of the coolest animals in the water. They are extremely adaptive and some can even live in both freshwater and saltwater.

Here are some cool facts about sharks:

- Sharks can range in size from smaller than your hand to over 30 feet long!
- Sharks are classified as fish, not mammals.
- The whale shark is the largest fish species which can weigh over 40,000 pounds. That is over 13 of your average cars combined!
- Bull Sharks can thrive in both saltwater and freshwater. One was even caught in the Mississippi River as far north as Alton, Illinois!

When people think of sharks many times they think of big scary teeth! However, not all shark teeth are like this. Sharks have teeth that are adapted to what they eat.

There are 4 main types of teeth that sharks have:

- Dense Flattened- These teeth are used for crushing their prey such as crabs and shellfish. Many bottom feeders have these teeth.
- Needle-Like- These teeth are adapted for grabbing and holding onto small fish and squid.
- Non-Functional- These teeth are found on filter feeders where teeth are not really used for eating.
- Pointed Lower and Triangular Uppers- These teeth are useful for grabbing and cutting prey such as large mammals and larger fish.



Dense Flattened



Needle- Like



Non- Functional



Pointed Lower and
Triangular Uppers

Indoor Craft: Shark Tooth Necklace

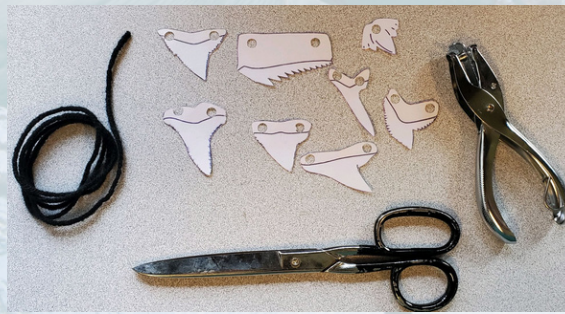
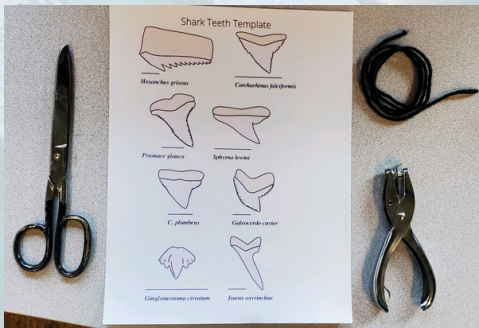
For the indoor craft this month we will be making a shark tooth necklace!

What you will need:

- Template
- Scissors
- White or Grey Foam or Cardstock
- Black Yarn
- Hole Punch

1. Print the Shark Teeth Template
2. Pick the teeth that you want on your necklace
3. Measure and cut the yarn to the right size for your neck
4. Cut the teeth out and punch one to two holes at the base of the teeth for the yarn to go through
5. Thread the yarn through all the teeth in whatever order you want
6. Tie the yarn so the teeth won't come off and the necklace can be worn

Optional: You can color the teeth with markers, colored pencils, etc. to make the necklace more personal

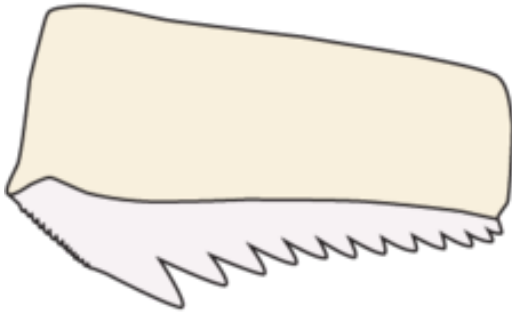


Outdoor Activity: Shark Bite!

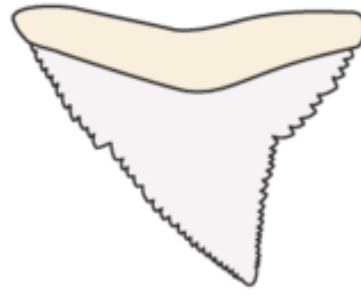
For this activity we will be playing a game called Shark Bite! You will need a minimum of 4 people to play this game but more people are preferred. This game can be played either on land or in a pool. Be sure to take the proper safety precautions no matter where the game is played.

Shark Bite is very similar to the game "freeze tag." You have one person who is the "shark" who tries to Bite (tag) the "swimmers." There should be a designated boundary within which the game is played. If you leave the boundary, you are automatically tagged and must return to the play area before you can continue play. If you are bitten by the shark, you must freeze where you are until another player comes and "heals" your bite by tagging you back in. Once all the swimmers are bitten the shark wins. A new shark is then chosen and the game is restarted. If a player becomes injured or cannot continue to play, the game is paused until the injury or problem is resolved. Be safe and have fun!

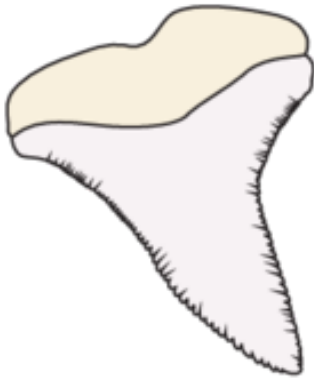
Shark Teeth Template



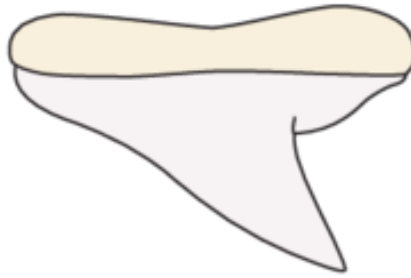
Hexanchus griseus



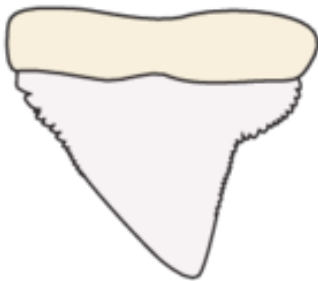
Carcharhinus falciformis



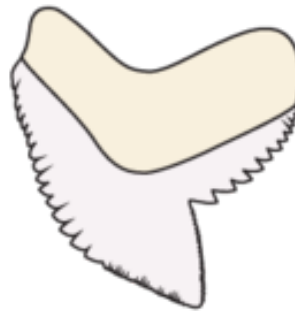
Prionace glauca



Sphyrna lewini



C. plumbeus



Galeocerdo cuvier



Ginglymostoma cirratum



Isurus oxyrinchus