

Sharks4Kids Shark Needs Kindergarten Activity

K-LS1-1 From Molecules to Organisms: Structure and Processes

K-ESS3-1 Earth and Human Activity

This activity can be used with the videos of *Norman the Nurse Shark*. Vocabulary is highlighted in red and a full vocabulary list for kindergarten can be found within the curriculum packet.

SQ: Indicates questions you can ask the students to engage them in a discussion.

**Italicized text is suggested narration and questions to ask throughout to get the students involved*

***Bold text is the instruction/action**

Introduction:

All living things have basic needs such as food, water, **OXYGEN** and shelter. This activity will show students that **SHARKS** are animals that have the same basic needs as all other living organisms. This including humans and animals that are familiar to them such as dogs or cats.

Materials:

- Sludge's magnifying glass coloring sheet. This should be completed before the activity starts as it is an important prop.
- Media set-up to watch Norman's videos

Time: 30-40 minutes. This activity can be easily split into two or three lessons if it is too long for your students.

Teacher Prep:

This is an active lesson and will require students to have room to move around and act out motions. Use Norman's videos on Sharks4kids.com so demonstrate how sharks have the same basic needs as all other animals. These videos are best if viewed during the activity but they can be shown afterwards if space inside the classroom is a limiting factor. Seat the students in a way that gives them a designated spot while also allowing room for their bodies to move around. A large circle can be best for this or if the students have a lot of energy then their own seats may be best.

Activity:

Today we are going to help Sludge investigate how sharks are similar to us and other animals. Let's start with ourselves.

Food:

SQ: What's your favorite food? Is it pizza? Mac n' cheese?

Pick one student at a time to act out eating their favorite food without talking and see if the class can figure out what it is by observing with Sludge's magnifying glass.

SQ: Can we guess what he/she is eating? Luckily this student can just tell us but animals can't talk so we have to use our observational skills to find out what they like to eat. Just like us though, all animals have to eat! What happens if you don't have breakfast? If we don't eat we get really hungry and our stomachs might hurt. Food is something that we must have to live and be healthy. What about your dog or cat? Do they eat? YES! They probably don't eat the same things that you and I do, but they still have to eat every day and they eat differently than we do.

For 10 seconds have the students act out how a dog or cat might eat.

SQ: Do sharks have to eat? YES! But sharks don't have hands, and their food doesn't stay in one place in a bowl like your pet's food because they live in the water and they have to catch their food. How can they get their food? Let's look at Norman to find out how a shark gets food. Get Sludge's magnifying glass out! Remember, Norman can't tell us what he's eating so we need to observe him to find out.

Play the video of Norman eating then discuss.

SQ: What was cool or interesting about Norman? How did he eat? Why is he eating like this? Does he have hands to help him?

Water & Oxygen:

SQ: We now know that all animals need food but what do animals usually have with their food? Something to drink! What do you drink with breakfast? Milk, orange juice or water? Let's take a vote! How about your dog? What does he/she drink? Hopefully water! Do sharks need water? Let's take another look at Norman. Get Sledge's magnifying glass out!

Play the video of Norman eating again.

SQ: Was he drinking the water? No, but he still needs it. He lives in the water! So all animals need water even if they use it in different ways.

SQ: Everyone take three big breathes in and out. We are using our lungs to breathe. We need oxygen and our body is breathing all the time for us so we don't have to think about it. Does your dog breathe? YES! Your dog might even snore! They have lungs just like we do but do sharks have lungs? Let's look at Norman again!

Play the video of Norman breathing and point out his gills.

SQ: This is Norman breathing. He's a fish and fish don't have lungs. These are called gills and they use the water to breathe. Most sharks have five gill slits on each side of their bodies. We have five fingers on each hand. Hold your hands on each side of your neck and pretend your fingers are the gills moving like a shark. We can pretend to breathe like Norman is!

Students can act out breathing like a shark while watching Norman breath again. (Note that Nurse sharks may appear to only have four gills slits on each side but the fifth is hiding in the last slit so count carefully)



This is another way Norman uses water!

Shelter:

SQ: *What do you do if it's raining outside? What if it's really cold or hot outside? We usually go inside to stay warm/cool and dry. What about your dog? He/she goes inside too! Animals need a shelter or a home to stay safe. Do sharks need to be protected? Why? There are bigger things in the ocean that might eat him so he likes to hide until he is big enough to be safe.*



Photo by Jan-Christopher Fischer

But even big nurse sharks hang out with friends to stay safe. Lay down on your tummy like Norman would to hide!

Students can lay down on their stomachs and hide or sit close to friends next to them if you already have a buddy system in place.

Discussion:

Let's observe Norman do all of these basic life needs. When you see Norman eating, silently act out how he eats. When you see him breathing and using water, put your gills up and when you see Norman hiding lay on your stomachs to hide with him! Ready? Let's watch one more time!

SQ:

Does Norman have the same needs as us?

How did he meet his needs?

How is this different/same as us?

Play through each Norman video one more time to review all of his basic needs. Ask students to share this with their parents/family when they get home.