

Sharks4Kids

Comparing Habitats

Grade 1-2 Craft

2-LS4-1 Biological Evolution: Unity and Diversity

This craft can be used with the *Let's Investigate Sharks PowerPoint*. Vocabulary is highlighted in red and a full vocabulary list for the PowerPoint can be found within the curriculum packet.

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

Introduction:

The following craft compares two ocean habitats that are very different- mangroves and sandy bottom. Mangroves are an important habitat for many species of animals including sharks! Red Mangroves (*Rhizophora mangle*) have a lot of **BIODIVERSITY** because they are salt tolerant with twisted roots that provide great shelter and **PREY** for animals throughout their **LIFE CYLES**. These trees are important to **CONSERVE** because they are also great for people! Not only are they the habitat for tasty shellfish like crabs and lobsters but they also provide us with protection from storms. The twisted roots anchor in sand and mud so that when the storm waves hit the shoreline, the roots help hold everything in place while reducing the energy of the waves to protect the environment from erosion. Finally, these trees can also help prevent **WATER POLLUTION** by filtering the water that flows through them. They're so important to the **ENVIRONMENT** that they are protected in the state of Florida and often permits are required to trim or remove them.

Unlike **CORAL REEFS** or mangroves, the sandy bottom environment offers little protection. Animals that live here must be flat to hide in the sand or small enough to burrow down into the sand for protection. Large **APEX PREDATORS**, such as hammerheads cruise through these environments looking for stingrays.

Time: 40-60 minutes total. This craft can be split into two sessions if time is a constraint.

Mangrove Habitat



Materials:

- One paper plate per student
- Brown yarn
- Green tissue paper
- Scotch tape
- Markers
- Norman the nurse shark coloring sheet

Procedure:

1. Students can start by coloring and drawing a mangrove scene on the top of a paper plate. They can draw in crabs, lobsters or other fish.
2. Next, students will fold the plate in half. Using the yarn and scotch tape, students will design their own mangrove roots by connecting the top and bottom of the plate.
3. Next, take small strips of tissue paper and crumble them up before taping along the top of the plate.
4. Finally, students can color and cut out Norman and glue him in the mangrove roots.

Sandy Bottom:



Materials:

- Clear plastic sandwich size bag for each student such as a Zip-lock
- Oatmeal
- Clear Packing tape
- One paper plate per student
- Sharks4Kids Hammerhead Character

Procedure:

1. First, color and cut out sharks4kids stingray and tape to the inside of the bag on the bottom facing up.
1. Fill the bag with a small scoop of oatmeal- just enough to almost cover the stingray and seal the bag tightly.
2. Tape the bag to a second paper plate.
3. Cut out and color the hammerhead shark character and place on the back of the mangrove habitat paper plate. The mangrove habitat will then be stacked on the plate with the stingray to create two different habitats back to back.

Discussion SQ:

1. How are these habitats different from each other?

2. How are the animals different from each other?
3. Would a stingray do well in the twisted mangroves?
4. Would a small shark do well in the sandy bottom?
5. Where would you like to live if you were a shark and why?

Share this and what you've learned with your friends and family!