

Teacher Guide and Activity

How can we learn about sharks?

- Scuba Diving & Snorkeling
 - In order to study sharks sometimes we need to dive in and get a closer look.
 - Scuba Diving: SCUBA stands for self-contained underwater breathing apparatus. Divers use special equipment to be able to stay underwater, including an air tank they can breathe from.
 - Snorkeling: People can use a snorkel, which looks like a pipe sticking up out of the water, to get air from the surface without having to lift their face out of the water.
 - Scuba diving and snorkeling let people observe sharks and study them in their natural habitat. People can learn how they swim, what they eat and where they go.
- Underwater Photo & Video
 - A great way to learn about any animal is by taking photos and videos.
 - There are special housings made for cameras, so they can go in the water. The housings keep the cameras safe and dry. (Go Pros are an example of a camera you can take in the water)
 - What could we learn from looking at photos and videos of different animals? -What they eat -How they move -Where they hide or spend time -How they play -How they act with other animals
- Science & Research
 - There are lots of ways scientists can learn about sharks.
 - They can observe sharks in their natural environment and take notes.
 - Catch the sharks and see how long they are and how much they weigh (just like when you go to the doctor).
 - They can take a DNA sample or a blood sample.
 - They can study the DNA to figure out a shark family tree just like people can research their family trees.
- Shark Tagging
 - A really cool thing scientists can do is to put tags on sharks. There are lots of different tags and they can do different things.
 - A simple tag might just give the shark an ID or “name.” If they catch the shark again they will know it has already been caught and they can take measurements again to see if it has grown.
 - Acoustic tags can be used for tracking animal movements over a long time period.
 - There are larger tags that are actually miniature computers. They record a lot of information while attached to the shark. -Location -Water temperature - Depth -Speed

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How can we learn about sharks? Charades Game!

Ask for volunteers from the class to step to the front of the class and act out one of these roles. Remember no talking allowed! The rest of the class may take turns raising their hands and guessing which member of the research team they are. You may choose to write the options on the board or hand out a list of roles to the class as a hint.

- SCUBA Diver
- Snorkler
- Photographer
- Videographer
- Observing shark from a boat
- Observing shark from a video
- Taking a blood sample from a shark
- Looking at a sample under a microscope
- Tagging a shark after capture
- Fishing for a shark
- Driving the research boat
- Taking measurements of how big the shark is
- Recording the data



MY LIFE AS A SHARK EXPERT

Creative Writing & Drawing Prompt

Imagine your life as a shark expert. What did you do at work today?
Did you SCUBA dive with sharks? Take a video of sharks? Tag sharks?

Draw a picture of you at work as a shark scientist.

