



SHARK TEETH MATCHING GAME

OBJECTIVES

In this activity students will:

- become aware that teeth vary by species.
- learn various species of shark.
- be challenged to match pictures of the different shark teeth with the correct species
- gain an understanding of the different prey items sharks eat

INTRODUCTION: There are over 500 different species of shark and they have different sized and shape teeth. The size and shape of the teeth can help scientists determine what they eat and how they eat.

SET UP: Print the image page of this packet (page 2). You may choose to use cardstock for repetitive use or laminate after printing. Cut out the separate sharks and teeth (10 in total).

DIRECTIONS

1. Spread some cards out as if you are playing and demonstrate the game.
2. Turn over a card, set it down in its place so that every player can see it, and read any/all of the words on the card.
3. Tell the opponent(s) what you are hoping to turn over to create a match (what the matching card might say or how the matching picture might look).
4. Turn over a second card, set it down in its place so that every player can see it, and read any/all of the words on the card out loud.
5. Say either “These cards match” (read the information on the answer key and pick the cards up) or say “These cards do not match” (and flip them back over so that they are face down on the table in their original position).
6. Have an opponent take a turn.
7. Check answers until all cards are picked up.

Optional challenge: When cards match, have the opponent provide the information on the answer key. Say “Good job” and have the opponent pick the cards up if information is correct. Say, “Good try” if the opponent is unable to provide the information and flip the cards back over after rereading the information.

VOCABULARY

- Enameloid: The shiny outside part of shark teeth. The biggest difference between your enamel and the enameloid of a shark’s tooth is that shark teeth have an extra ingredient in their outer layer called fluoride.

NURSE SHARK (*Ginglymostoma cirratum*)



PRICKLY DOGFISH (*Oxynotus bruniensis*)



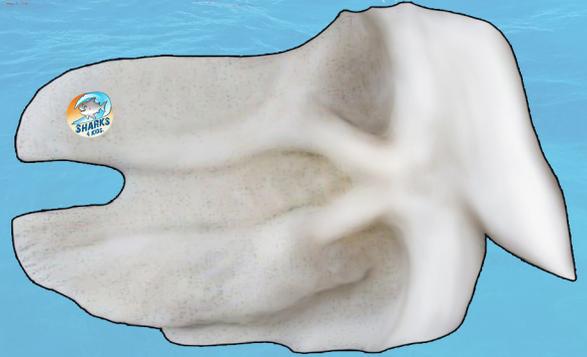
Image: Brit Finucci



GREENLAND SHARK (*Somniosus microcephalus*)



Image: Andy Murch

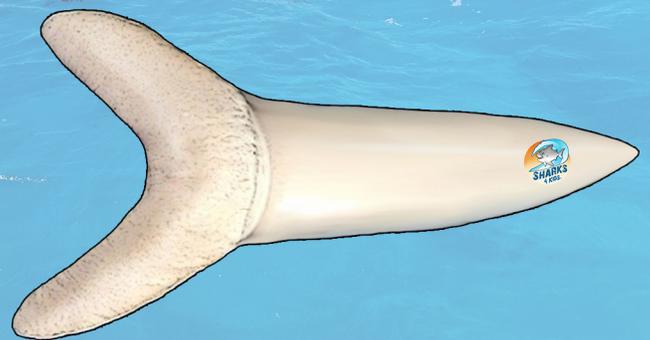


TIGER SHARK (*Galeocerdo cuvier*)

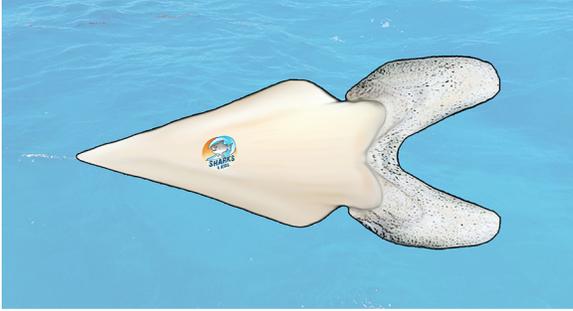
Image: Ron Watkins



SHORT FIN MAKO SHARK (*Isurus oxyrinchus*)

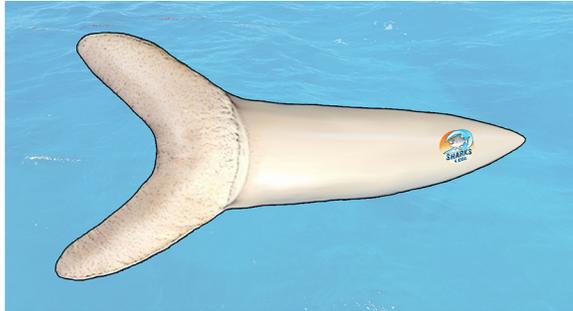


ANSWER KEY



Prickly Dogfish (*Oxynotus brunniensis*)

Research has shown they feed primarily on the egg cases of chimaera (cartilaginous fish related to sharks).



Shortfin Mako Shark (*Isurus oxyrinchus*)

Their food is fast and includes swordfish, tuna, squid and even other sharks.



Greenland Shark (*Somniosus microcephalus*)

They eat fish, but scientists believe they are primarily scavengers. They've been known to eat seals, polar bear, reindeer and even moose.



Tiger Shark (*Galeocerdo cuvier*)

They have a diverse diet and have earned the nickname "garbage cans" of the sea. They eat fish, birds, other sharks, sea snakes and turtles.



Nurse Shark (*Ginglymostoma cirratum*)

They have super suction and can even remove a conch from the shell. They also crush up prey items like lobster and bony fish.