

3-5

Conserve

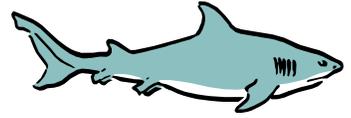
Care

Connect

Discover



# Shark Discovery Field Investigation Log



Find two different species of shark (there are six different species in the South Pacific Aquarium). **Draw** each of your sharks below (it's not important to know the name of each species). Be sure to **label** your drawings.

Shark 1:

Shark 2:

Choose one individual shark to watch for at least one minute. What was your shark doing?

How would these behaviors help them to survive in the wild?

Find a shark that can't close its mouth because of all of its teeth sticking out. What do you think this shark eats?

How does having so many teeth help a shark to survive?

Why do you think sharks are important in the ocean ecosystem?

What can you do to help protect shark habitats?

# Shark Discovery

## Teacher/Chaperone Field Investigation Guide

*The purpose of this activity is not for students to get all the “right” answers but rather to allow them to practice field investigation skills.*

**Find two different species of shark (there are six different species on exhibit). Draw each of your sharks below (it’s not important to know the name of each species). Be sure to label your drawings.**

*This purpose of this activity is to provide students with an opportunity for observation and to practice diagramming skills, including labeling. FYI – sharks species on exhibit include a lemon shark, a sand tiger shark, a wobbegong shark, blacktip reef sharks, nurse sharks and sandbar sharks.*

**Choose one individual shark to watch for at least one minute. What was your shark doing?**

*Students will practice field observation and record keeping skills performed by actual field biologists. Make sure they time their observations.*

**How do you think would these behaviors help them to survive in the wild?**

*If students get stuck on this question, ask them to list the basic needs of any animal (food, water, space, shelter/protection). Could these behaviors help the animal take care of its needs if it lived in the wild?*

*Swimming sharks may be on the lookout for prey. Resting sharks may be saving their energy to find prey later on. Swimming also keeps sharks in shape so they are strong enough to protect themselves and catch struggling prey. Our nurse sharks don’t need to swim as often because they eat slow moving animals that hide in the sand.*

**Find a shark that can’t close its mouth because of all of its teeth sticking out.**

**What do you think this shark eats?**

*FYI - Sharks with narrow pointed teeth like the sandtiger shark can typically only eat fish that they can swallow whole. Sharks with triangular and serrated teeth (i.e. white sharks) can cut larger prey into pieces small enough to swallow.*

**How does having so many teeth help a shark to survive?**

*Sharks produce teeth throughout their lives, constantly replacing teeth lost while capturing prey.*

**Why do you think sharks are important in the ocean ecosystem?**

*Most sharks are top predators that keep prey populations healthy by eating the weak or injured. Many are also prey for other predators.*

**What can you do to help protect shark habitats?**

*If students need help with this question, guide them towards thinking about what they know about conservation in general. Encourage them to think about what they can do personally from home (use fewer resources, recycle, buy organic products, keep toxic chemicals out of the water, buy/eat only seafood that is caught using environmentally friendly methods).*