



# Nature-Watch Activity Kit

## Shark Teeth

(Nature Watch Kit #128)

### Kit Contents

<u>Item:</u>	<i>Kit Size</i>	
	<b>25</b>	<b>100</b>
Shark Teeth	25	100
Necklace Cords	25	100
Beads	250	100
Instructor Manual	1	1

*This page includes the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) mapping for this kit and Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) extensions (on back) to use in adapting and extending this activity to other subject areas.*

### **Next Generation Science Standards Alignment**

2-LS4-1. Make observations of plants and animals to compare the diversity of life in different habitats.

3-LS1-1. Develop models to describe that organisms have unique and diverse life cycles but all have in common birth, growth, reproduction, and death.

3-LS4-2. Use evidence to construct an explanation for how the variations in characteristics among individuals of the same species may provide advantages in surviving, finding mates, and reproducing.

MS-LS1-4. Use argument based on empirical evidence and scientific reasoning to support an explanation for how characteristic animal behaviors and specialized plant structures affect the probability of successful reproduction of animals and plants respectively.

MS-LS4-1. Analyze and interpret data for patterns in the fossil record that document the existence, diversity, extinction, and change of life forms throughout the history of life on Earth under the assumption that natural laws operate today as in the past.

**See Back for  
STEM Extensions**

*This Nature Watch Activity Kit contains an Instructor Manual and materials to implement the curriculum. The kit was designed to be used with adult supervision only. Unsupervised use is not recommended.*



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## STEM Extensions

### Science

Cut out paper or cardboard drawings of various species of shark. Tell your classmate to look closely at the body shapes. Then, blindfold them and hand them one of the cutouts. Ask them to guess which type of shark it is by feeling the size and shape. [Try some shark species with unique head shapes, such as hammerhead, saw, bullhead, frilled, and broadnose sharks.]

Play a shark-themed game of “Fact or Fiction”. Give each player small scraps of paper. Everyone should write down one true fact about sharks and one false thing that people may believe (i.e., Sharks are the deadliest animals on Earth.) Mix up the scraps of paper in a hat and pick one out. Read the statement aloud and ask the group to decide if it is fact or fiction. Continue through all the statements.

Shark tooth fossils are sometimes found in riverbeds that were once covered by oceans. Other interesting objects from times past can also be found. Go to a nearby river or stream to see what you can find. Bring a small shovel and a kitchen sifter to sort through the soil. What do your discoveries tell you about the history of the place?

### Technology

Use word processing or publishing software to create a menu for a shark café. Include a diverse array of food that these carnivores like to eat and add artwork and creative names for the meals that reflect sharks’ natural habitats and characteristics.

Write and record a song that tells the life story of one of the endangered shark species. Add ocean-themed background music as an extra touch.

### Engineering

(Younger) Imagine you are a shark looking up at a surfer on a surfboard. Draw what you would see. Now, draw what you would see if a seal was swimming above you. Compare and contrast the two shapes.

(Older) Although shark attacks are not very common, some people may feel more comfortable surfing if they knew that a shark would not mistake them for a seal or sea lion. Come up with a new surfboard design that could not be mistaken as a seal or sea lion, but still cuts through the water for surfers to ride the waves.

### Math

(Younger) Measure your shark tooth. Then, measure one of your own pointy teeth by lining up a string against it and cutting the string to the length of your tooth. Which tooth is longer?

(Older) Using the calculation tip in the first paragraph on page 2, determine the length of your shark based on the size of your shark tooth. Then, measure some large objects around you and make a list of objects that are comparable in length. Who’s longer, you or the shark? Is your shark as long as a car?