

**SHARK  
& RAY** **14  
JULY**  
**AWARENESS DAY**



# OCEAN WANDERERS

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# TOOL KIT



# SHARK & RAY

14 JULY

## AWARENESS DAY

### GOALS

Drive our internal audiences to [SAFEsharks.org](http://SAFEsharks.org) for resources

Provide actions to engage in-person and online audiences in shark and ray conservation

Promote the collective work of AZA SAFE Shark and Ray partners

Offer opportunities for AZA institutions to raise funds to support shark conservation programs through AZA SAFE

### AUDIENCE

AZA-accredited zoos and aquariums.

SAFE Shark and Ray program partners.

Conservation partners celebrating Shark & Ray Awareness Day.

### OBJECTIVES

To engage zoo and aquarium visitors and online audiences in activities, programs, and social media campaigns.

To raise awareness about the AZA SAFE Shark and Ray conservation program.

To inspire individuals to take positive conservation actions to protect the ocean.

### BENEFITS

We know our audiences LOVE sharks, and Shark & Ray Awareness Day is an opportunity to "talk shark" and share your important conservation work with visitors, both online and in-person.

As AZA's conservation brand, SAFE programs allow us to inspire our participants to get involved, while elevating the important work we are doing every day.

This packet contains all the information you will need to host a successful and fun event at your zoo, aquarium or online!



**Use the hyperlinks below to help guide you through this document.**

## **KEY MESSAGES**

Create effective talking points and content for your audiences

## **SOCIAL MEDIA**

Easy, fun and customizable content to share with online audiences

## **FUNDRAISING**

Ideas for supporting SAFE while celebrating sharks and engaging new audiences

## **EDUCATOR RESOURCES & SELF-GUIDED ACTIVITIES**

Curriculum, web-based resources, virtual lessons, guided and self-directed activities for in-person and online visitors





Sharks and rays are found throughout the world's ocean, inhabiting a diverse range of environments—from shallow, coastal waters to the deep sea and the open ocean.

This year for Shark and Ray Awareness Day, we're focusing on **Ocean Wanderers**. Oceanic Sharks (see below) include some of our best-known and most charismatic species. Migrating between the waters of different nations, they spend a large proportion of their **time on the high seas**, areas outside of national territories. These species are not only fascinating but also face significant conservation challenges.

**Highly mobile sharks face intense fishing pressure from international fleets.**

## 31 SPECIES

### OCEANIC SHARKS

Oceanic Whitetip Shark  
Great Hammerhead  
Scalloped Hammerhead  
Smooth Hammerhead  
Bigeye Thresher  
Common Thresher  
Pelagic Thresher  
Whale Shark  
Basking Shark  
Megamouth Shark

White Shark  
Porbeagle  
Salmon Shark  
Shortfin Mako  
Longfin Mako  
Blue Shark  
Silky Shark  
Galapagos Shark  
Dusky Shark  
Bigeye Sand Tiger  
Crocodile Shark

### OCEANIC RAYS

Oceanic Manta Ray  
Reef Manta Ray  
Pelagic Stingray  
Atlantic Devilray  
Shortfin Devilray  
Giant Devilray  
Pygmy Devilray  
Longhorned Pygmy Devilray  
Sicklefin Devilray  
Bentfin Devilray

A 2021 report from the Global Shark Trends Project revealed a staggering **71% decline in oceanic shark populations** over just 50 years. Alarminglly,

“  
**75% of these species are now classified as threatened with extinction**  
”

Without urgent action, these iconic predators could disappear from our oceans.

Because these species move through national waters and the high seas, **their protection requires coordinated international policies and enforcement** - something that has historically been difficult to achieve.



The key to reversing this decline lies in international collaboration. **Effective, science-based fisheries management is essential** for ensuring the survival of high seas shark populations. SAFE Shark and Ray partners, Shark Trust work at the cutting edge of this pursuit, rallying international governments to take positive steps for these sharks and rays.

To support this crucial work, the Shark Trust have launched a campaign to mobilize global support for better conservation policies.

Members of the public from across the world are asked to add their name to the **BIG SHARK Pledge** to give the Shark Trust and their partners the public backing needed to persuade policymakers to act.

This year, we're asking participating AZA SAFE institutions to help us spread awareness of these vulnerable species and support their conservation. Inspire your visitors and online audiences to take action by signing the **Big Shark Pledge** and becoming advocates for these incredible ocean wanderers. **Together, we can drive change and ensure a future where sharks and rays continue to thrive.**



**3/4 OF OCEANIC SHARKS AND RAYS ARE THREATENED WITH EXTINCTION.**

## TALKING POINTS

Making the connection between the sharks and rays visitors are seeing in your zoo or aquarium and these oceanic species, is important. The following can aid communicators in helping to make this important link for audiences.

**Evolutionary and Biological Connections** - Sharks existed for over 400 million years, adapting to a wide range of environments. Many aquarium species share common ancestors with oceanic species, and increasing our knowledge and understanding of one species will benefit others.

**Habitat Adaptations** - Oceanic sharks are often pelagic, deep-sea travelers, while aquarium species are often coastal/reef dwelling. Explain how adaptations like body shape, fin structure, and feeding behaviors in different species are adapted to suit their respective environments.

**Main Roles in Marine Ecosystems and the Importance of Top Predators** - All sharks play important roles in maintaining ocean health by regulating prey populations and by providing ecosystem services that help to maintain and balance marine ecosystems.

**Human Impact and Conservation** - Overfishing, finning, bycatch, and habitat destruction threaten all sharks. Share how shark research and breeding programs in zoos and aquariums are contributing to science and conservation, as well as how our visitors are engaging in conservation actions, like purchasing sustainable seafood or vegan, shark-free cosmetics, that will have positive impacts on all sharks and rays.



# KEY MESSAGES: TOGETHER FOR SHARKS!

**Shark & Ray Awareness Day 2025** is all about working together for conservation. The power of SAFE is in the many organizations working collaboratively to have a positive impact on the future for sharks and rays. Sharing our knowledge, learning from each other and speaking up with one voice for the things that matter. There is power in collective action and we can share that message with our visitors and followers. Using this theme, we can engage audiences in the incredible value of sharks, while also promoting conservation actions and elevating our own shark conservation efforts through SAFE. **Our messaging toolkit highlights the following tips for engaging visitors:**

## MESSAGING SHOULD AIM TO...

- ✓ Include a specific conservation related ask for participants and give them a way to contribute/act while on-site. Don't assume visitors won't contribute or engage with the conservation ask.
- ✓ Highlight the power of collective action and inspire visitors to connect and engage with the Big Shark Pledge.
- ✓ Share the collaborative work of AZA institutions and global shark scientists through SAFE Shark and Ray.

## LESS EFFECTIVE MESSAGING WILL...

- ✗ Leave visitors concerned but with no idea how they can help.
- ✗ Provide actions for visitors which don't have a clear link to the problem.
- ✗ Provide too many actions for visitors, leaving them confused or overwhelmed.

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**AZA Zoos and Aquariums provide the highest quality of care and wellbeing for sharks and rays, while working collectively to save and protect threatened species, including oceanic sharks and rays that often aren't seen in aquariums. Example:** With 31 species of oceanic sharks and rays, they are often out of sight and out of mind but are some of the most threatened sharks and rays in the world. Over the last 50 years, their populations have declined by 71%. Here at [Zoo/Aquarium], we are supporting these species through the **Big Shark Pledge** and you can too!

**Sharks and Rays are vital for the health of the ocean! Example:** Over the course of 400 million years, a staggering array of 1,200 species have evolved into various shapes, sizes and characteristics. Many play critical roles in marine food webs and ocean health. From filter feeding oceanic species, like Whale Sharks, Manta Rays and Basking Sharks, to top ocean predators, like Oceanic Whitetips and the Great White. Sharks protect a thriving and balanced ocean environment for people and wildlife! Sign the **Big Shark Pledge** today to make sure there are sharks in our oceans tomorrow!

**Highlight your Z/A as a “Big Shark Pledge Partner” by working with, and supporting SAFE Shark and Ray, in addition to your own shark conservation efforts. Example:** AZA institutions like ours work with conservation partners, like SAFE and the Shark Trust, to protect sharks and rays. And it's helping! Our collective efforts have supported legislative actions and science-based fishery management to protect sharks in the wild. Overfishing is the primary threat for 100% of threatened sharks. Signing the **Big Shark Pledge** to address excessive and unsustainable fishing practices, and focusing on sustainable choices when making purchasing decisions, are simple ways we can work towards improving ocean health.



# SOCIAL MEDIA TOOLS



Social media content should be focused on Oceanic Shark and Ray species, showing the diversity and need for conservation measures, while promoting engagement with the Big Shark Pledge.

## MESSAGING

On July 14th, the world's aquariums and zoos - influential collective forces for engaging the public in conservation and decision making - together with their audiences, celebrate Shark & Ray Awareness Day.

As a SAFE partner or contributor, your institution's participation - and that of your social media followers - is a key component of creating a united international effort to raise awareness and encourage action to create a sustainable future for wild shark and ray populations. This multi-point event includes activities and special events at aquariums and zoos around the globe.

**SAFE Shark and Ray Social:** Click the icons to follow, like, and share our posts:

### Event Hashtags:

#OceanWanderers  
#BigSharkPledge  
#SAFEsharks



@safesharksandrays



@safe\_sharks

Premade, customizable social media tiles are available for **DOWNLOAD**



Visit [www.SAFEsharks.org](http://www.SAFEsharks.org) for more information



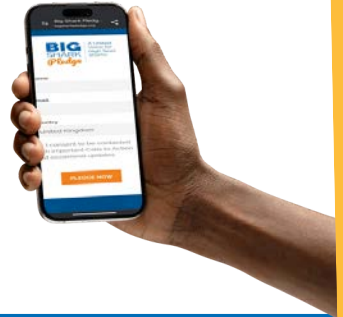


# 4 STEPS FOR VISITORS TO TAKE COLLECTIVE ACTION

1

## SIGN THE BIG SHARK PLEDGE

Sign the Big Shark Pledge and join a global community of shark supporters and **use your voice to protect oceanic sharks and rays.**



## DAILY ACTIONS

Take daily actions to help sharks and rays, like **purchasing only sustainable seafood**, using shark-safe cosmetics, or supporting media that portrays these amazing animals in a positive way, while focusing on conservation efforts to save them.

2

3

## SOCIAL MEDIA

Share **your favorite Ocean Wanderer** and a fact you've learned about them.

Share **the Big Shark Pledge** with your community!

Share **the actions** you are taking in your daily life to support sharks.

## SUPPORT SAFE/AZA

**Join, donate or volunteer** to science-based conservation organizations like SAFE.

Your support helps us continue to research and protect sharks and rays.

4



# FUNDRAISING

**Shark & Ray Awareness Day provides AZA partners with an excellent opportunity to raise funds for SAFE Shark and Ray.** By financially supporting this global conservation program, you are making a commitment to enable coordination, development, and delivery of conservation objectives.

The posters on the next page are also available in 18x24 format. Download them by visiting our [Shark & Ray Awareness Day folder](#).

**Here are a few easy ideas to consider:**



On Shark & Ray Awareness Day, **support our ambitious program by holding a fundraiser for SAFE Shark and Ray** in your community. Collaborate with your volunteers, teen audiences, local groups (such as youth organizations, other conservation organizations, youth groups, schools, etc.) to organize an event at your facility or in the community!



**Use "round-up for conservation funds"** from your event in support of SAFE Shark and Ray.



Share a **percentage of retail sales** for certain items, or the **sales during the day of your event**, as a great way to engage visitors in conservation action to support SAFE Shark and Ray.



**Share the fundraiser poster/image** during your online and in-person events to encourage donations in support of SAFE Shark and Ray.



**Suds for Sharks events** are fantastic opportunities to work with local breweries and/or restaurants to engage new audiences in your mission! Event proceeds, silent auctions, and even interactive games like shark trivia or bingo can help you raise funds for SAFE. Our team is happy to help you plan, email: [windykent@safesharks](mailto:windykent@safesharks) to get started.



# PROTECT THE FUTURE OF SHARKS AND RAYS

**DONATE NOW!**

Your tax-deductible donation helps us  
save sharks and rays from extinction.



**SHARK  
& RAY** **14**  
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# PROTECT THE FUTURE OF SHARKS AND RAYS

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SCAN HERE

**SHARK & RAY** **14**  
AWARENESS DAY **JULY**

# PROTECT THE FUTURE OF OCEANIC SHARKS AND RAYS

## SIGN THE BIG SHARK PLEDGE!

Add your voice and become part of the movement saving these remarkable creatures!



SCAN HERE

[bigsharkpledge.org](http://bigsharkpledge.org)

**SHARK  
& RAY** **14**  
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# PROTECT THE FUTURE OF OCEANIC SHARKS AND RAYS

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SHARK & RAY **14** JULY  
AWARENESS DAY



.....

is helping Ocean Sharks and Rays by

.....





**SHARK  
& RAY** 14  
JULY  
**AWARENESS DAY**

# EDUCATOR ACTIVITIES

**These resources can be used for:**

Classroom Activities

Camp Activities

Science Nights







# OCEAN WANDERERS

**EDUCATOR ACTIVITIES**

**LITTLE SHARK PLEDGE**

**SHARK  
& RAY** **14**  
JULY  
**AWARENESS DAY**



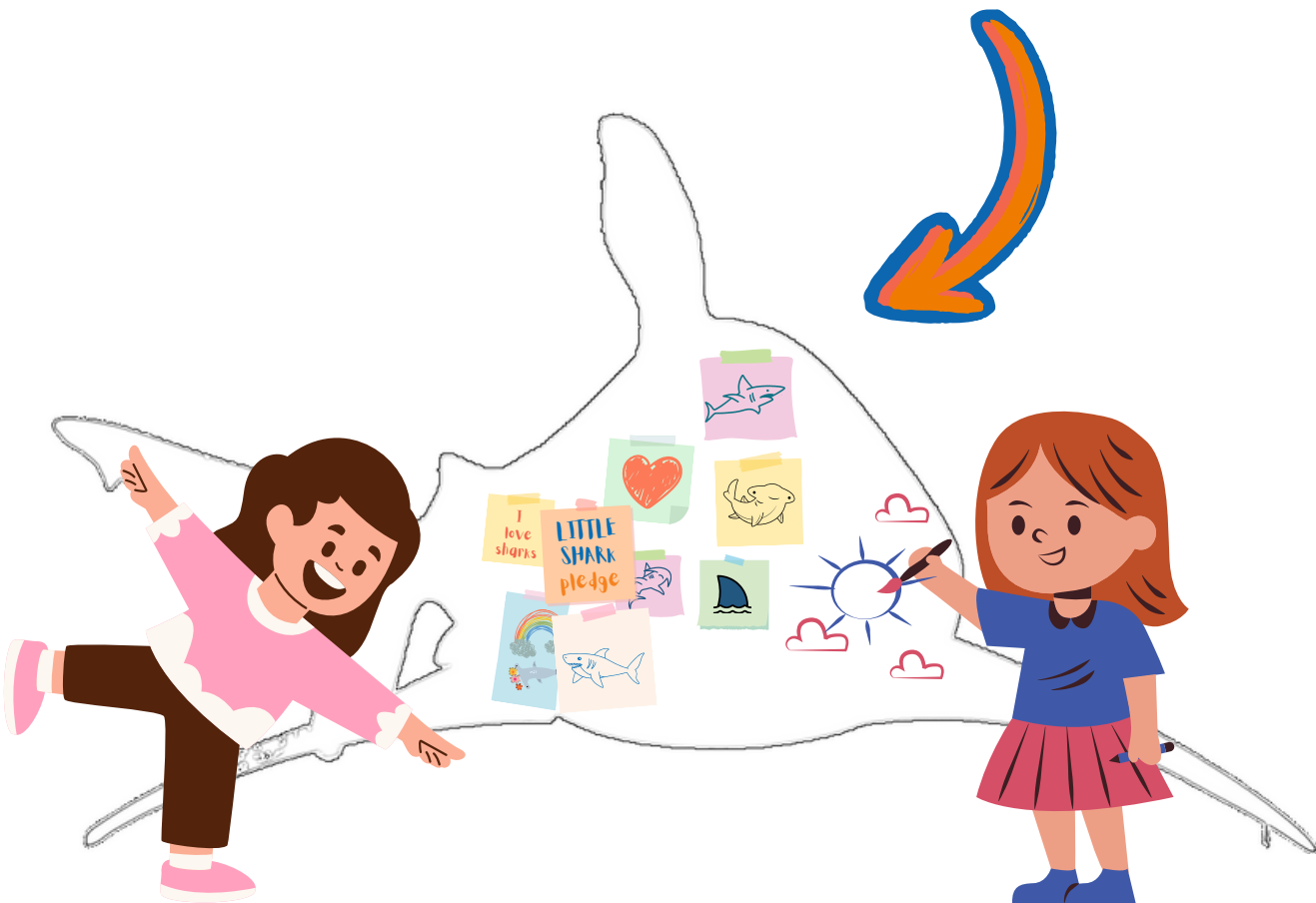


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# little ~~BIG~~ SHARK Pledge

Why not create a large outline of the Oceanic Whitetip so young aquarium visitors are able to show their support for Oceanic Sharks and Rays through notes and drawings for the **LITTLE SHARK PLEDGE**.

Please take photos and videos of your pledge wall and [send to us](#) for use in the campaign.





# OCEAN WANDERERS

**EDUCATOR ACTIVITIES**

**SHARK BUOYANCY**

**SHARK  
& RAY** **14**  
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# SHARK BUOYANCY



**Introduction:** Buoyancy is the ability to float or sink in a liquid. Being able to control your buoyancy without effort is important for aquatic animals – especially oceanic sharks which swim in open water, miles from land (or the sea bed).

## Materials:

- 2 water bottles
- Cooking Oil
- Freshwater
- Salt (optional to make saltwater)
- A large container filled with freshwater or saltwater
- Sharpies to draw shark faces
- Plastic Shark toy (optional; found at the dollar store)

**Directions:** Let's make 2 of our "sharks"!

**Step 1:** Fill one bottle with cooking oil and one bottle with freshwater. Make sure you fill both bottles with the same amount of water equally.

**Step 2:** Draw a shark face on both bottles!

**Step 3:** Place a large bin of water big enough to hold the bottles and the toy if you have one.

**Step 4: Predict & Observe:** Which sharks will float and which ones will sink?



## Key Points & Key Questions to Ask:

- What makes an object float? (whether it's lighter than the liquid)
- Does your oil bottle float or sink?
- Sharks have a large liver filled with oil. This comes from their diet of fatty fish and blubber from seals and sea lions. What if there is not enough fish because of overfishing? What will happen to the shark?



## Working Together

*Did you know that sharks are threatened by climate change, pollution and habitat loss. But the biggest threat BY FAR is overfishing, and bycatch?*

**How can YOU help?**



**Share your favorite oceanic shark fact on socials**

#SAFEsharks #OceanWanderers  
#TogetherForSharks



**Eat sustainably-caught seafood**



**Join, donate, or volunteer to science-based conservation organizations**



# OCEAN WANDERERS

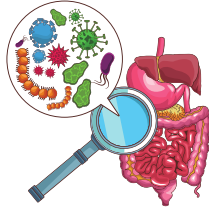
**EDUCATOR ACTIVITIES**

**STOMACH SLEUTHS**

**SHARK  
& RAY** 14  
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# STOMACH SLEUTHS!



**Introductions:** Groups work together to “dissect” a shark stomach made of slime and plastic prey objects. Play with slime and explore where sharks and rays fit into ecosystems and food webs by studying contents of their “stomachs.”

## Materials:

- Small rubber toy replicas of various animals consumed by sharks and rays, including fish, crabs, mollusks, crustaceans, etc. You may also include items NOT eaten by sharks and rays to have participants identify “what does not belong” in the stomach. A good place to find these may be in your gift shops; look for the “[ocean animal tubes](#)” or purchase a bundle online [here](#).
- Examination gloves (nitrile, latex, disposable, etc.)
- Rubber bands
- Goo or slime (can be purchased or made. See recipe at the end of the lesson.)
- Dissecting pan and child-friendly “tools” such as tweezers, scissors, etc.

## Directions:

**Step 1:** When all the materials are collected, use a rubber band to close off the fingers of the rubber glove. The palm area will act as the “stomach” of an animal and the fingers could be labeled as the various anatomical structures leading into and away from the stomach.

**Step 2:** Designate shark and ray predators for which the students will perform a “gut analysis”. Determine what the prey items for sharks and rays would be, including fish, mollusks, crustaceans, etc. (See example on next page) The animal replicas and the slime represent the stomach contents for each animal’s stomach.

Cut the plastic “prey” into pieces. Safety first! Be aware that depending on the material cutting may produce sharp edges that may need to be dulled.



**Step 3:** Prior to the activity, but not too far in advance so that the slime does not dry out, add the appropriate animal and plant prey pieces to the slime and insert into the rubber glove. Use a rubber band to then secure the main opening of the glove.



## STOMACH SLEUTHS! CONTINUED

**Step 4:** Place the “stomach” in a dissecting pan, along with the appropriate dissecting instruments. Scissors can be used to open the stomach as in a real dissection, or take off the rubber band to expose the stomach contents. The latter will save immensely in prep time if this activity is to be with consecutive groups.

**Step 5:** Once the stomach contents are exposed, students should pick through the stomach slime to find and identify the bits of food, compare/contrast prey by species, and identify what “belongs” and what does not, if introducing additional items into the stomachs.

### Slime Recipe



- Warm Water
- 2 cups of White School Glue, or Gel School Glue
- 3 teaspoons of Borax laundry detergent
- Food Coloring (optional)
- Medium-sized bowls for mixing ingredients
- Sticks or spoons for stirring ingredients
- Airtight containers for storing the slime

**Directions:** In a bowl, combine 1-1/2 cups of warm water with 2 cups of glue. Add food coloring if desired. Mix thoroughly.

In a separate bowl, mix 1-1/3 cups warm water with 3 teaspoons of Borax until it is dissolved. Slowly mix the Borax solution in with the Glue mixture, stirring constantly. Once the slime is mixed, and there is very little water remaining, you can pick up the slime and begin playing with it (over the bowl, it drips!) until it becomes less sticky and more pliable (a minute or so). Place your creation in an airtight container until use.

### Example of marine trophic levels



### Working Together

*It takes a lot of research and science to provide the highest quality care for sharks and rays. SAFE partners share what we learn by caring for these animals to help sharks in the wild!*



# OCEAN WANDERERS

**EDUCATOR ACTIVITIES**

**MAGNETIC MIGRATION**

**SHARK  
& RAY** **14**  
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# MAGNETIC MIGRATION



**Introductions:** Finding your way across vast open oceans requires some special skills and adaptations. In this game we'll see how sharks use electroreception to navigate when travelling using the Earth's magnetic field.

## Materials:



Large piece of paper



Pack of paperclips



Pair of scissors



Piece of card

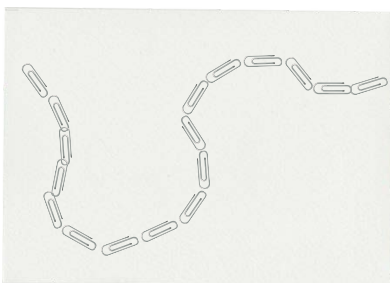


A magnet

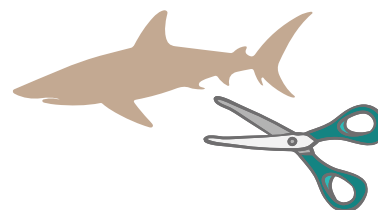
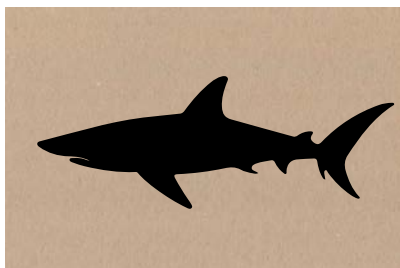
## Directions:

**Step 1:** On a large piece of paper, create a migration route by sticking paper clips.

**Step 2:** Flip the large piece of paper over so that the migration route is hidden.



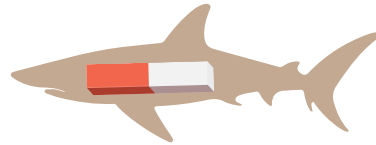
**Step 3:** Draw a shark on a piece of card and cut out.



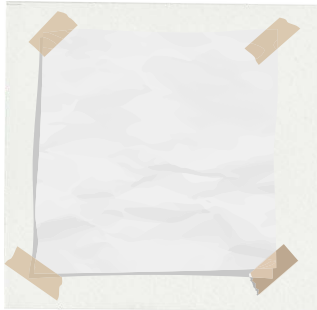
# MAGNETIC MIGRATION



**Step 4:** Stick the magnet to the back of the shark

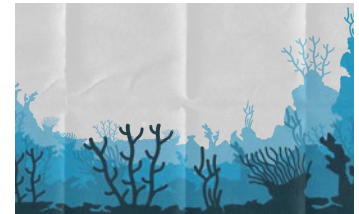


**Step 5:** Tape a piece of paper to the large sheet with the route on the back

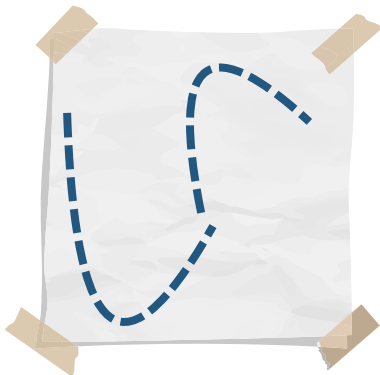
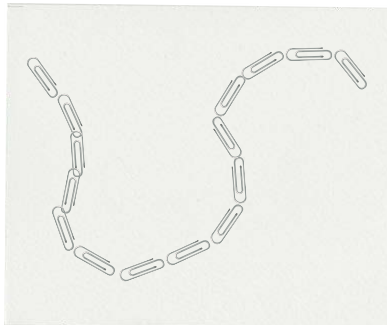


## TOP TIP

You can draw an ocean scene on your piece of paper for your shark to navigate its way through.



**Step 6:** Let the visitors use the shark with a magnet attached to trace the migration route created by the paperclips. Mark the route they have made with a pen/pencil. Once they have completed the route. Flip the large piece of paper over to compare the original migration route to the one they have made.



## Working Together

*Oceanic sharks are particularly at risk from high seas fisheries. We need international collaboration to improve fisheries management  
How can YOU help?*



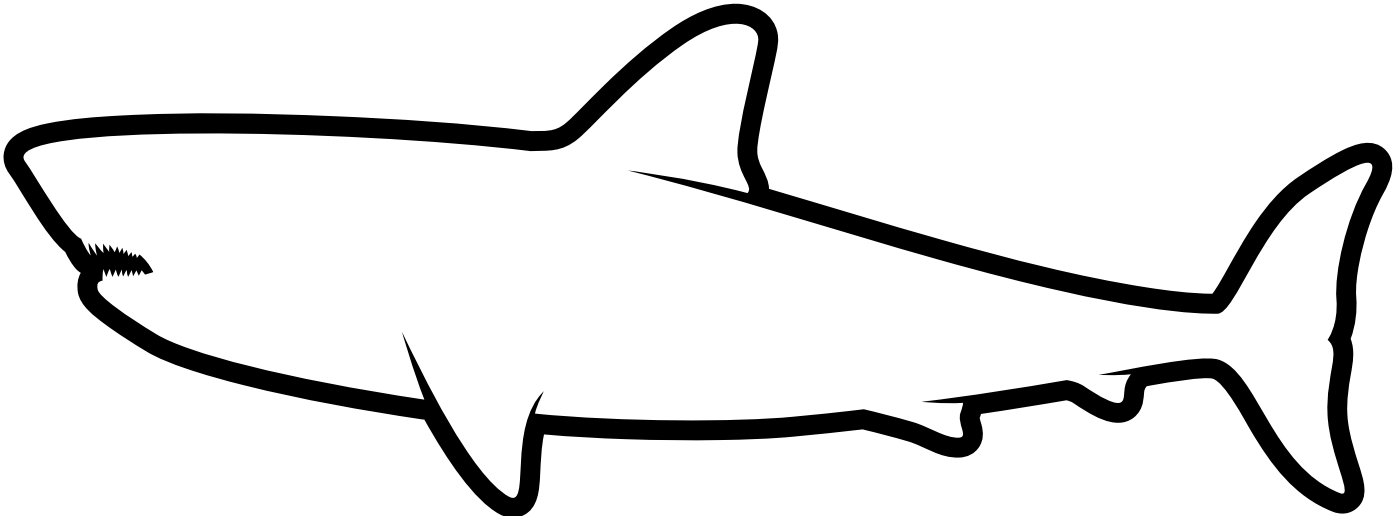
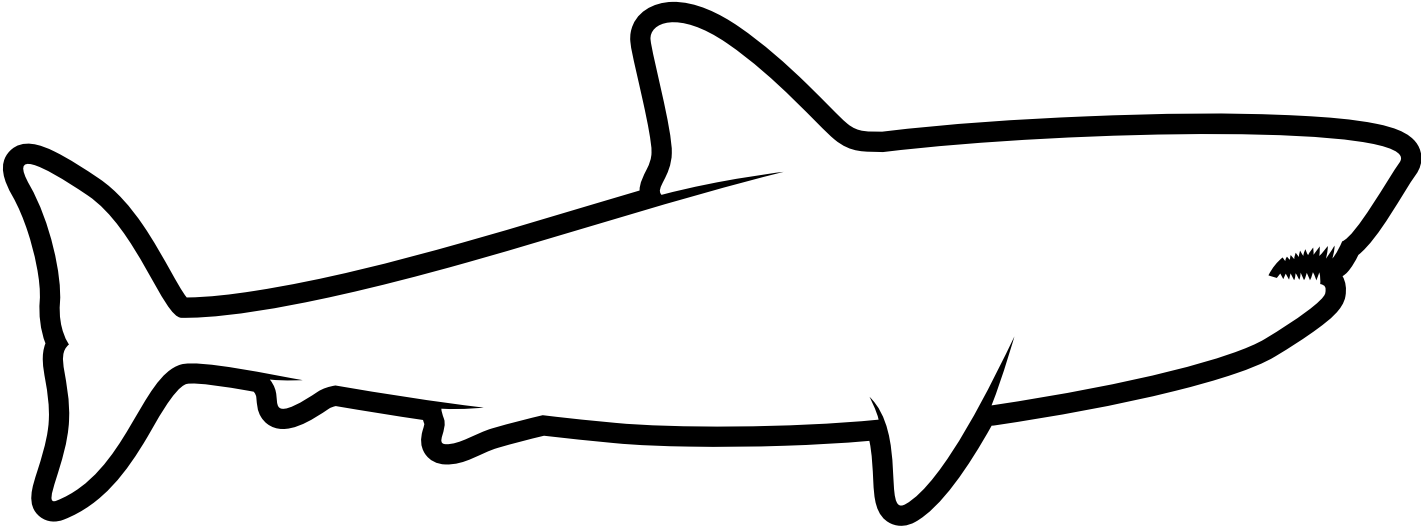
**Sign and share the Big Shark Pledge.**

#SAFEsharks #OceanWanderers  
#TogetherForSharks



**Join, donate, or volunteer to science-based conservation organizations**

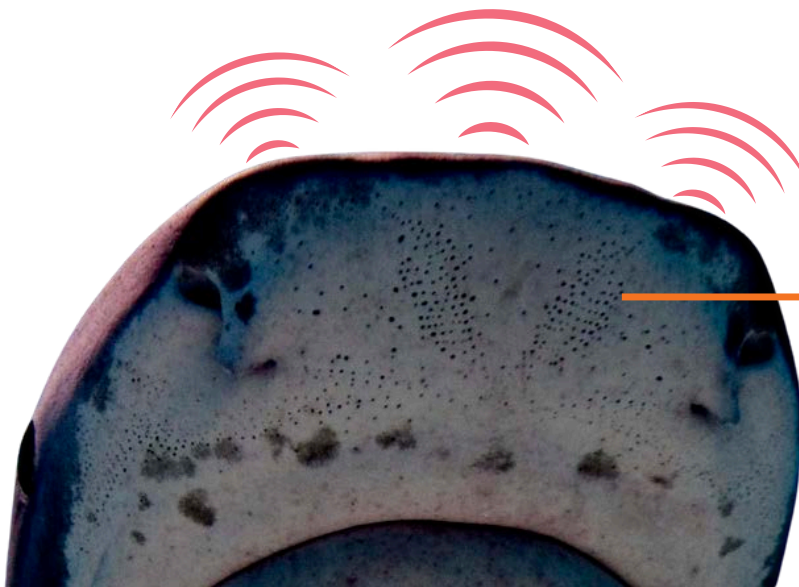
Shark outlines for the  
MAGNETIC MIGRATION activity



# HOW DO SHARKS KNOW WHERE TO GO?

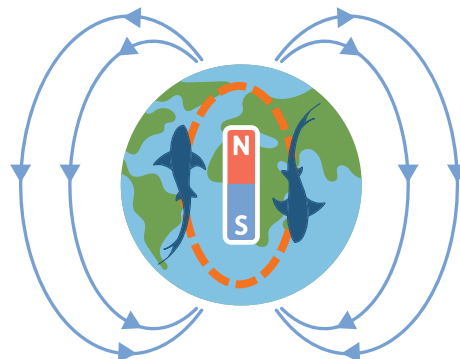


Sharks have tiny sensing organs on their heads called the **Ampullae of Lorenzini**. These organs can detect very weak electrical signals in the water. They are named after an Italian scientist, Stefano Lorenzini, who studied them.



AMPULLAE OF LORENZINI

The Earth has an invisible force around it called the magnetic field, which acts like a giant magnet. When a shark swims, **the Earth's magnetic field can cause small electric currents in the water**. The Ampullae of Lorenzini pick up these tiny electric currents and send signals to the shark's brain. This helps the shark know which way to go, almost like having a built-in compass.



# WHY IS THAT IMPORTANT FOR OCEANIC SHARKS AND RAYS?

These **OCEAN WANDERERS**, take huge long trips: called Migrations. Many sharks, like Blue Sharks, Scalloped Hammerheads and Great White Sharks, travel hundreds, and sometimes thousands of miles across the ocean. **By sensing the Earth's magnetic field, they can find their way** to feeding grounds, or back to places where they were born.

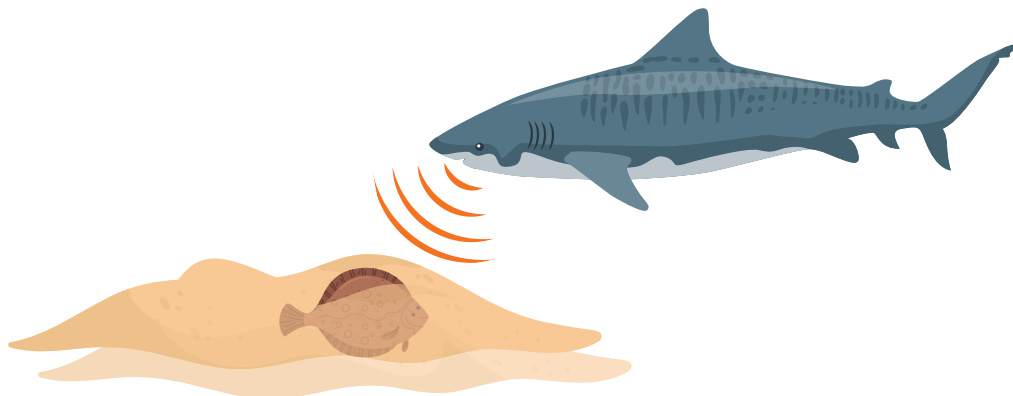


Blue Sharks travel across the Atlantic Ocean and all the way back on a yearly migration.



That is a whopping 6000-miles.

Sharks use their Ampullae of Lorenzini to detect the tiny electric signals from their prey's muscle movements. This is why they can hunt in the dark or even when their prey is hiding under the sand!





# OCEAN WANDERERS

**EDUCATOR ACTIVITIES**

**BE A SHARK & RAY FIN-FLUENCER**

**SHARK  
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# SHARK & RAY FIN-FLUENCER



**Introduction:** Protect oceanic sharks and rays by posting fun facts on your socials! Research shows we're more likely to trust messages from people we know. That means you can make a difference by sharing your knowledge to help others appreciate and protect sharks.

**Audience:** Middle school and older -- day visitor or summer camper

## Materials Needed:

- Paper for writing (2-3 sheets per person)
- Pens or pencils for writing
- Pre-printed Position-Rationale-Proof worksheet & example (Appendix A) and example (Appendix A)
- SAFE Sharks & Rays messaging frameworks (Appendix B)

## Instructions:

**Step 1:** Look at the talking points and write one or two that you agree with in the POSITION column of the Position-Rationale-Proof worksheet

**Step 2:** Write a sentence or two about why you agree with that statement in the RATIONALE column

**Step 3:** Review the interpretive signs and other materials and write down a few facts that are cool, surprising and support your position in the PROOF column

**Step 4:** Repeat for each item in your RATIONALE column

**Step 5:** On a separate sheet of paper, draft your social media caption or script, creating a sentence or a paragraph for each row.

**Step 6:** Add a strong closing statement that encourages others to think about your message and/or take action.

**Step 7:** Take a photo and add your caption or record a video and add subtitles.

**Step 8:** Tag the aquarium, science center or zoo where you are and add these hashtags: #SAFEsharks #TogetherForSharks, #OceanWanderers



# FIVE

STEPS TO  
BECOME A

# SHARK&RAY

# FIN-FLUENCER

## 1

### ENGAGEMENT

Interact with your audience, ask questions, use polls and encourage participation to keep them engaged.



## 2 POSITIVITY

Using the Communication Toolkit, you can create engaging and positive content that supports shark conservation. [Link toolkit]



## 3 FACTUAL

Make sure what you post has been fact-checked. Continue learning more and more facts about Oceanic sharks and rays.



## 4 VISUAL MASTERY

Have a selection of cool images and videos of your favorite Ocean Wanderers! You can use the pre-made social media posts!



## 5 EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION

Focus on clear messaging to make sure your message is easily understood.





**BE A SHARK FIN-FLUENCER**  
**APPENDIX A**



**The Position-Rationale-Proof Strategy®**

| <b>Position</b><br>What you think.<br>Your main idea -- the most important thing you want your audience to know | <b>Rationale</b><br>Why you think it.<br>Explanations (definitions or descriptions) and examples that support your POSITION | <b>Proof</b><br>How you know.<br>Evidence and exposition that validate your POSITION and each RATIONALE |
|---|---|---|
|   |   |   |
|   |   |   |
|   |   |   |

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# BE A SHARK FIN-FLUENCER

## APPENDIX A



### The Position-Rationale-Proof Strategy®

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|---|---|---|
| <b>Everybody should sign the Big Shark Pledge!</b>  | <b>Sharks and rays deserve our love and attention!</b><br><br>Often portrayed as dangerous killers. That makes it hard for people to feel like they need protecting.<br><br>They need us! | Good at protecting themselves from other marine animals but not from humans.<br><br>The Shark Trust: Overfishing is the <b>only</b> threat for 67% of shark and ray species.<br><br>Sign Big Shark Pledge to tell government officials you want them to make and enforce science-based limits on the sharks and rays that live in our oceans. |
|   | <b>I signed the Big Shark Pledge because sharks and rays are amazing!</b>   | Basically swimming dinosaurs. Sharks and rays have been traced back to the Jurassic period -- about 150 million years ago.<br><br>Create habitats, circulate nutrients and support healthy fisheries and eco-tourism.<br><br>That means they're good for the oceans -- and for us!  |
|   | <b>You can help!</b>  | Add your name at <a href="http://bigsharkpledge.org">bigsharkpledge.org</a> and be a FINfluencer!   |
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### Example social media caption or script

Did you know sharks and rays need our help? It's true! Sharks and rays deserve our love and attention. Sharks and rays are often portrayed as dangerous killers – and that makes it hard for people to feel like they need our help. They're really good at protecting themselves from other marine animals, but not from humans. In fact, The Shark Trust says overfishing is the **only** threat for 67% of shark and ray species. That's why signing the Big Shark Pledge is important. It's how people like us can tell government officials we want them to make and enforce science-based limits on the sharks and rays that live in our oceans. I signed the Big Shark Pledge because sharks and rays are amazing! Sharks and rays have been traced back to the Jurassic period – about 150 million years ago – so they're basically swimming dinosaurs. They also create habitats, circulate nutrients and support healthy fisheries and eco-tourism. That means they're good for the oceans – and for us! Add your name at [bigsharkpledge.org](http://bigsharkpledge.org) and be a FINfluencer like me!





## SELF-GUIDED ACTIVITIES

These resources can be used for:

- Discovery Carts
- On-the-floor Activities

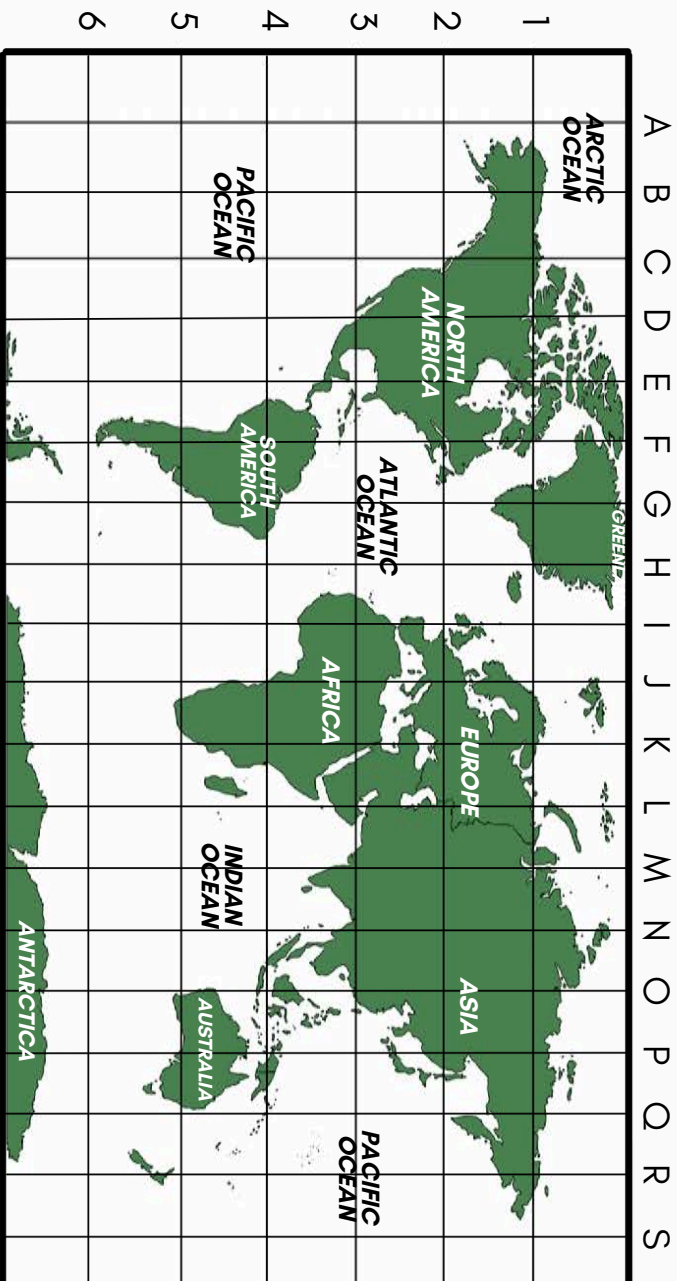
**SHARK  
& RAY** 14  
JULY  
**AWARENESS DAY**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# HOW FAR DO THRESHER SHARKS GO?

Use the coordinates on the right to plot the locations of the common thresher shark (*Alopias vulpinus*).



Coordinates:

- |              |              |
|--------------|--------------|
| 1. (1.5, B)  | 11. (4, I)   |
| 2. (2.5, C)  | 12. (5, J)   |
| 3. (4, E)    | 13. (4, L)   |
| 4. (5.5, E)  | 14. (3.5, M) |
| 5. (5, G)    | 15. (4, N)   |
| 6. (3, F)    | 16. (5, O)   |
| 7. (2, G)    | 17. (5, R)   |
| 8. (1, J)    | 18. (4, Q)   |
| 9. (2, I)    | 19. (3, P)   |
| 10. (2.5, J) | 20. (2, Q)   |

All done plotting? Let's analyze and look at your map...



1. Around which continents will you find the common thresher shark?
2. Do thresher sharks like to be in the middle of the ocean or close to a coastline? Why?
3. Some countries protect sharks if they are close to their ocean, but not all. What would happen to sharks that travel near a country that does not have marine protections?

# CREATE AN OCEANIC SHARK



**Introduction:** Oceanic sharks have so many amazing abilities, they travel long distances, wandering across the ocean, while providing services that maintain a healthy, balanced environment.

**Materials:** Colored pencils, crayons, or markers.

**Directions:**

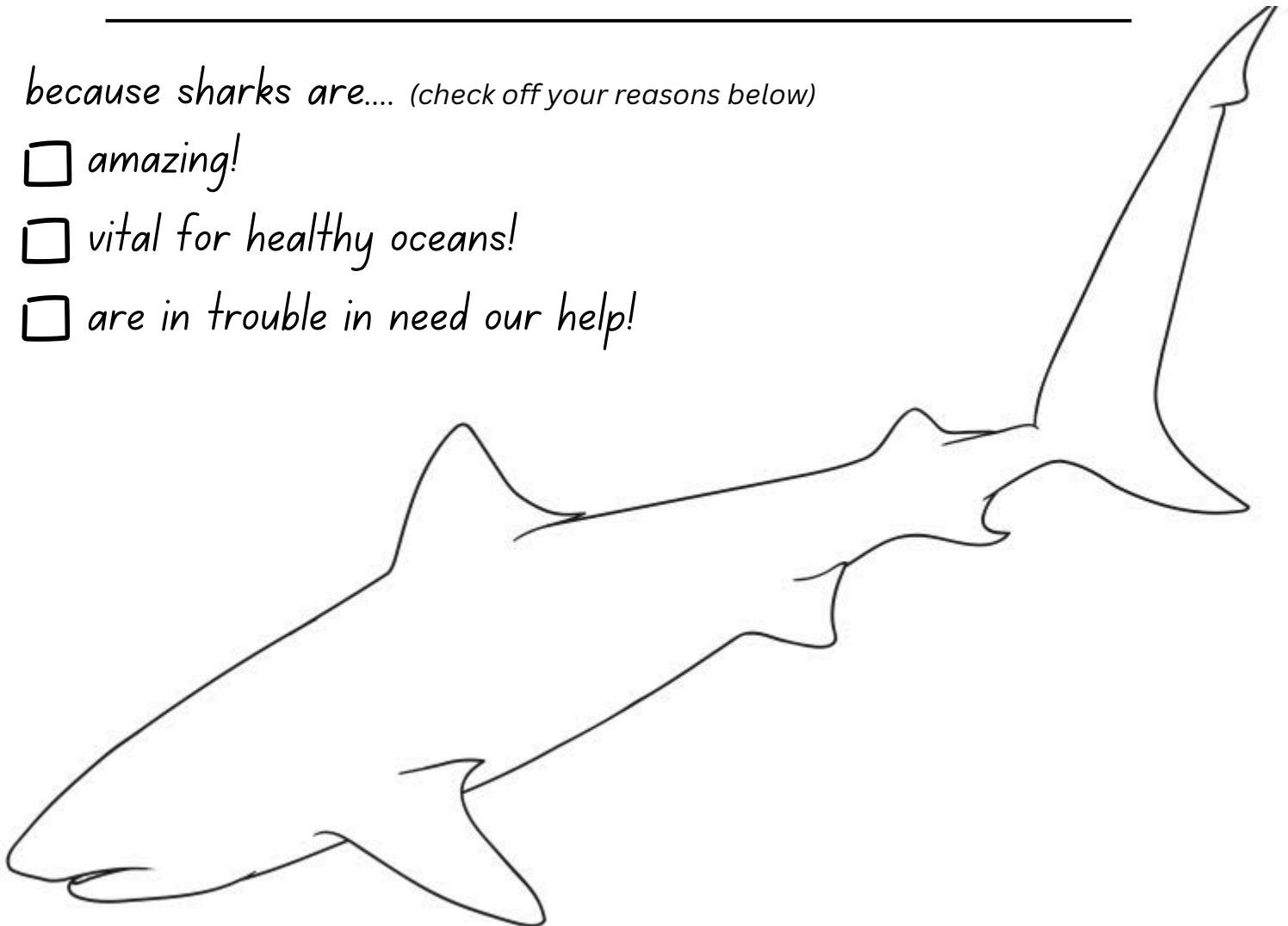
- Use the blank shark below to make your very own shark!
- Draw its special powers based on what you learned from your visit today! Ask an Educator nearby if you're not sure!
- Don't forget to give your super shark a name!
- **Take the pledge!** In 1 sentence, how will YOU help save sharks and rays?

I will help save sharks and rays by...

---

*because sharks are.... (check off your reasons below)*

- amazing!*
- vital for healthy oceans!*
- are in trouble in need our help!*





# DRAW A GREAT HAMMERHEAD



**SHARK & RAY** 14 JULY  
**AWARENESS DAY**

**Introduction:** The Great Hammerhead shark (*Sphyrna mokarran*) is the largest of all the hammerhead species. Their uniquely shaped heads help them to hunt by giving them a much wider view of the world!

**Directions:** Follow the steps below to learn how to draw your own hammerhead shark!

|   |           |  |                            |
|---|-----------|--|----------------------------|
| <h2>How to draw a great hammerhead shark (<i>Sphyrna mokarran</i>)</h2> <p>by Julius Csotonyi</p> <p><b>Red steps: Pencil</b></p> <p><b>Blue steps: Pen</b></p> |           |   <p>© Julius T. Csotonyi</p> |                            |
| <b>1</b>  | <b>2</b>  | <b>3</b>   | <b>4</b>                   |
| <b>5</b>  | <b>6</b>  | <b>7</b>   | <b>8</b>                   |
| <b>9</b>  | <b>10</b> | <b>11</b> Half erase pencil  | <b>12</b>                  |
| <b>13</b>   | <b>14</b> | <b>15</b>  | <b>16</b> Erase all pencil |

# MAKE A SILKY SHARK

SEA★LIFE



SHARK & RAY 14 JULY AWARENESS DAY

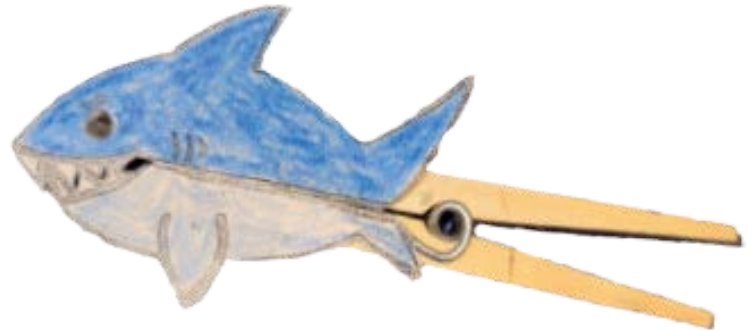
**Introduction:** Did you know that sharks can go through around 30,000 teeth in one lifetime? They have teeth that function like a conveyor belt to catch and eat their prey. When they lose one tooth, another is behind it ready to take its place! Let's make your own shark!

## Materials:

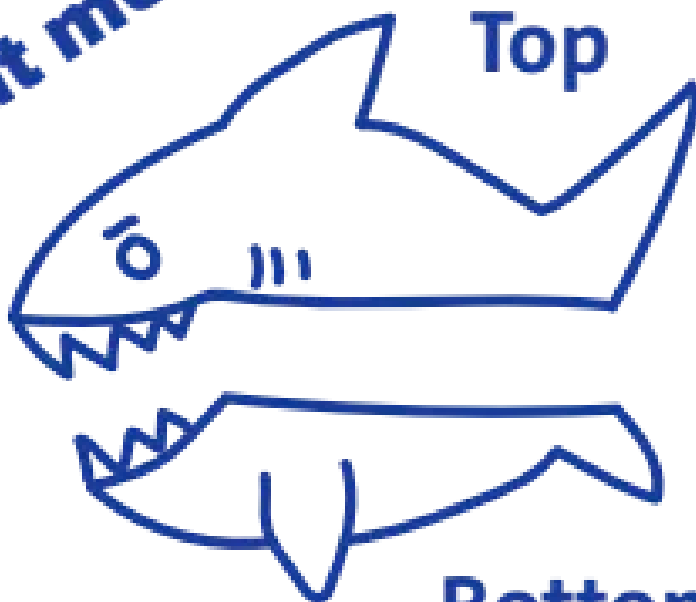
- 1 clothespin
- Scissors
- Glue or tape
- Coloring supplies
- A printout of this sheet

## Directions:

- Color your shark template below.
- Cut out your shark into top and bottom pieces.
- Glue the top of the shark to the top side of the clothespin.
- Glue the bottom of the shark to the bottom side of the clothespin.
- Happy chomping!



Cut me out!



Bottom



## Working Together

Did you know that sawfish, like sharks, are threatened due to overfishing and habitat loss?  
**How can YOU help?**



Share your experience today on social media.  
#SAFEsharks  
#OceanWanderers



Eat sustainably-caught seafood

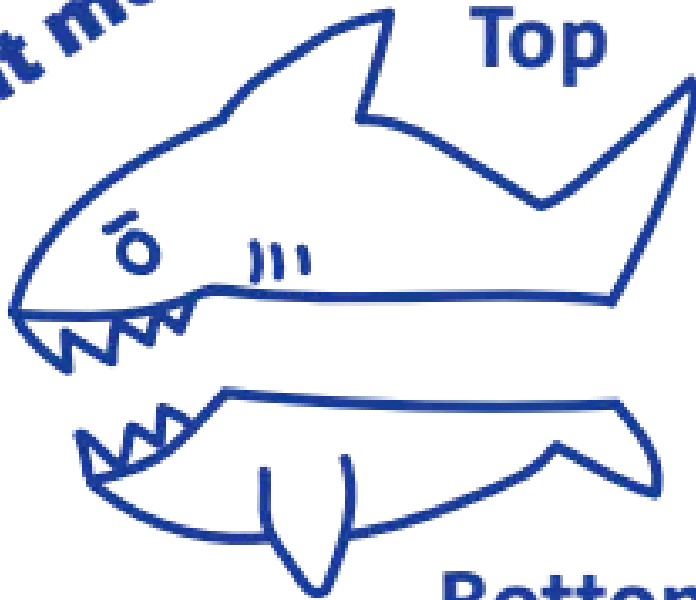


Sign the [Big Shark Pledge](#) and use your voice to save high seas sharks.

# MAKE A SILKY SHARK

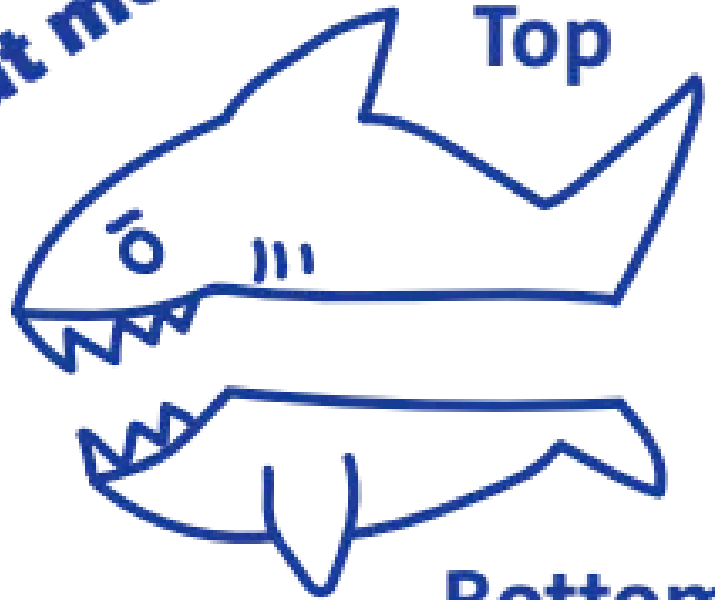
EXTRA CUTOUTS

**Cut me out!**



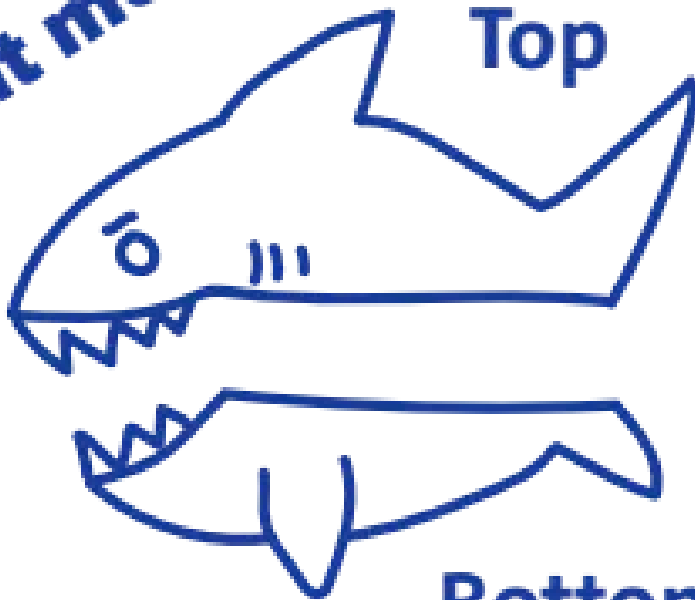
**Bottom**

**Cut me out!**



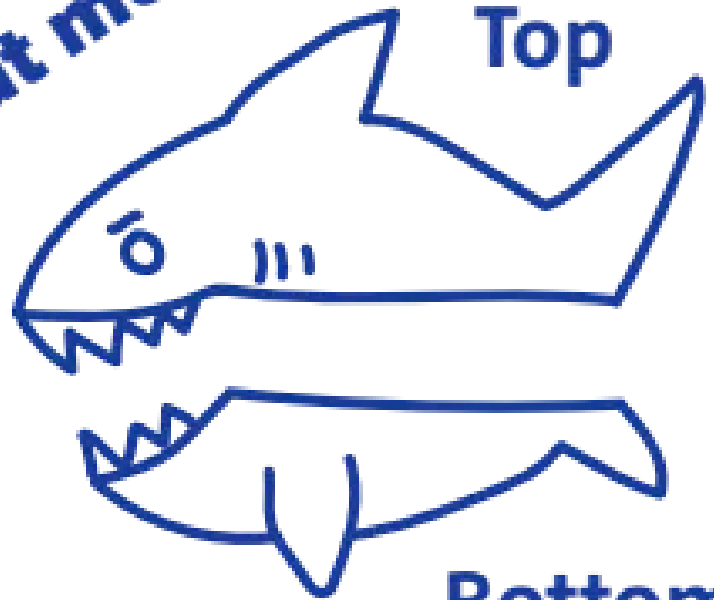
**Bottom**

**Cut me out!**



**Bottom**

**Cut me out!**



**Bottom**



# TOILET ROLL HAMMERHEAD



**Introduction:** Hammerhead sharks are one of the most recognizable shark species. Did you know their uniquely shaped heads help them to hunt? It gives them the superpower to see in 360 degrees!

## Materials

- Toilet roll tube
- Index Card
- Scissors
- Colored crayons, markers, pencils, or paint.

## Directions:

**Step 1:** On an index card, draw 1 large **dorsal** (back) fin, 2 **pectoral** (side) fins, one large **caudal** (tail) fin, and a Cephalofoil shape (the hammer shape). Use the end of the roll as a guide to how wide the tail fin and head need to be. See the examples in picture below.

**Step 2:** Cut two horizontal slits at one end of the toilet roll for the head card to insert in.

**Step 3:** Cut two vertical slits on the other end of the toilet roll for the tail card to insert in.

**Step 4:** Color the toilet roll and all the pieces. Hammerheads are usually gray on top, and white on the bottom. This is called **countershading** and it gives them the superpower of **camouflage**.

*\*Safety first! Be careful with the scissors. Let an adult do steps 5-6, if needed.*

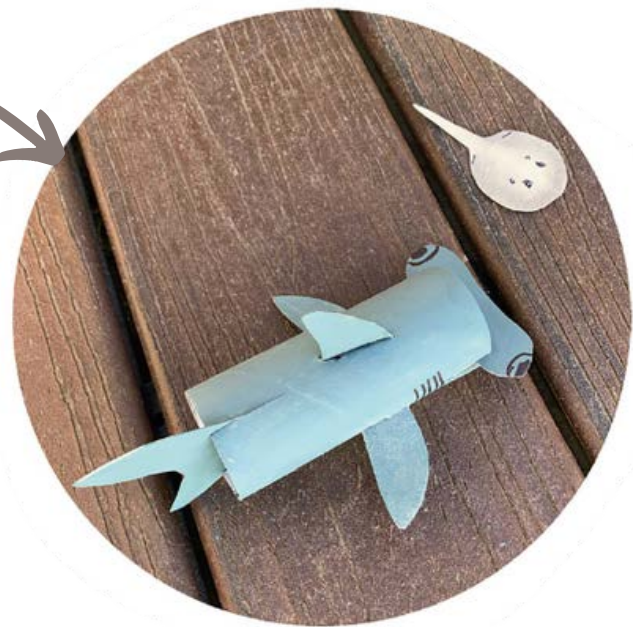
**Step 5:** Cut two vertical slits on the sides of the toilet roll for the side fins to insert in.

**Step 6:** Cut one slit at the top of the toilet roll for the dorsal fin to insert in.

## Assemble!

**Step 7:** Insert all the pieces into the toilet roll slits.

**Step 8:** Color/draw in the **eyes** and **Ampullae of Lorenzini** (electroreceptors normally found by the nose)



# SHARK ANATOMY

Find out what makes sharks some of the greatest predators on our planet?



E L C S U M E T I H W L C E M P P A C P  
Q A B E S S Z A S T A P G O A X Y N U E  
D Y Q L L J R P F T C A U D A L F I N C  
W F L U A E I E E A L S L I R T S O N T  
D I V W G R C R K I B H A Z L G Y R N O  
G E S N A S A T T A P E M I A U V D T R  
G G N C R L B R R B R A W A S O E P S A  
Q F L T L A A Y E O Y L A L R L C X N L  
H E X I I C L I V E R G L I O T R Q I F  
S D N O Q C Q V Q G M E F I D T D J F I  
L E M X K N L C P S A T C R G K D I C N  
A M P U L L A E O F L O R E N Z I N I S  
P C Q H T L O T S P P X F D P S D V V V  
X W C E V E R K E H H U R M Z T H G L H  
D U S A A Y P L J E T B T U G W I N E E  
V Q X E R E X A A K T M A S A L L O P E  
W O Q P W S R U T O T H Z C M D O F N C  
M F R R E D F L B C O X F L I A D Z B E  
F O Y X D R C X R O H E S E C C V T G V  
D S Z E Y X V O F H M I U A B O P G S W

AMPULLAE OF LORENZINI

CARTILAGE

CAUDAL FIN

DENTICLES

DORSAL

ELECTRO-RECEPTION EYES

GILLS

GILL RAKERS

JAWS

LATERAL LINE

LIVER

NOSTRILS

PECTORAL FINS

PELVIC FINS

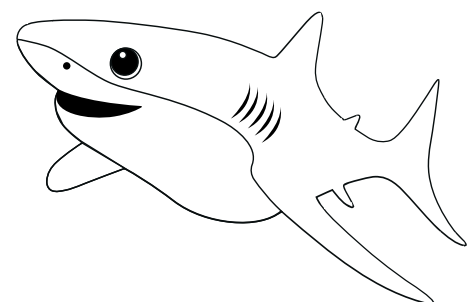
RED MUSCLE

SPIRACLES

TAPETUM

TEETH

WHITE MUSCLE





## BASKING SHARK

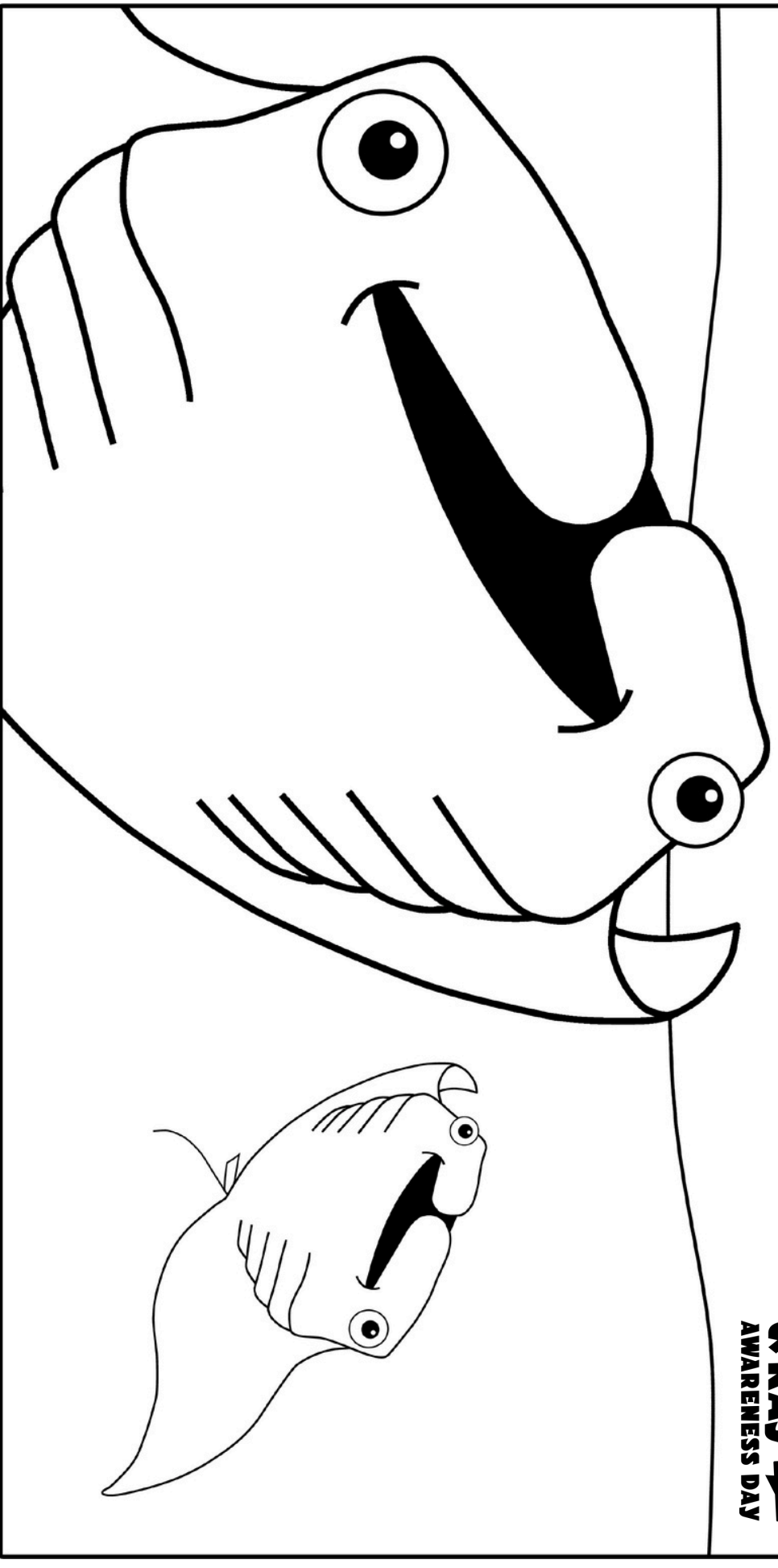
Basking Sharks are the 2nd biggest fish in the world. Yet they eat tiny microscopic plants & animals that float in the water, called plankton.

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**SHARK**  
TRUST

**SHARK** 14  
**& RAY** JULY  
AWARENESS DAY



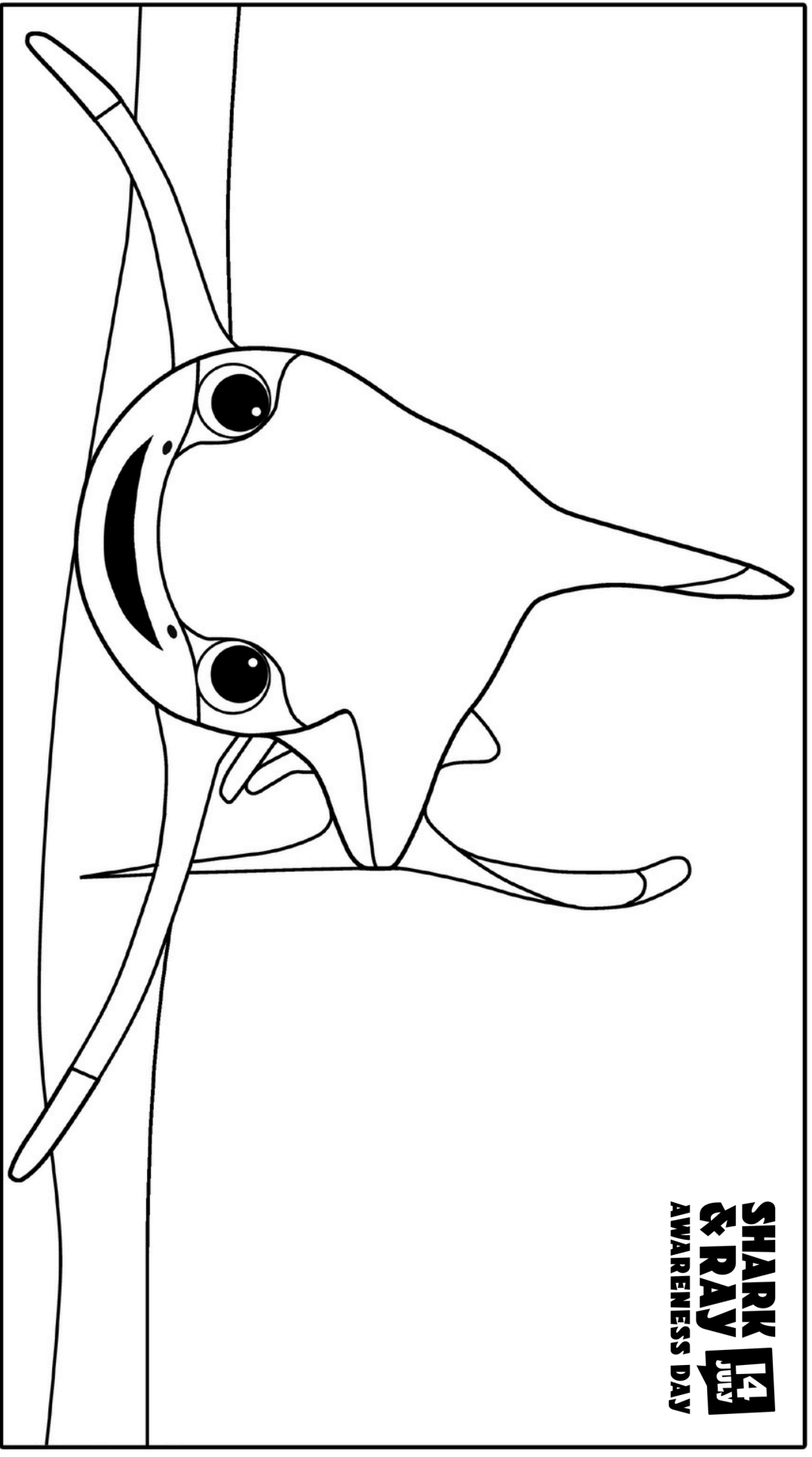
## MANTA RAYS

The graceful Manta Ray is closely related to sharks. They glide through the water using their wings and are very fast swimmers.



**SHARK**  
TRUST

**SHARK**  
**& RAY**  
**14**  
**JULY**  
**AWARENESS DAY**



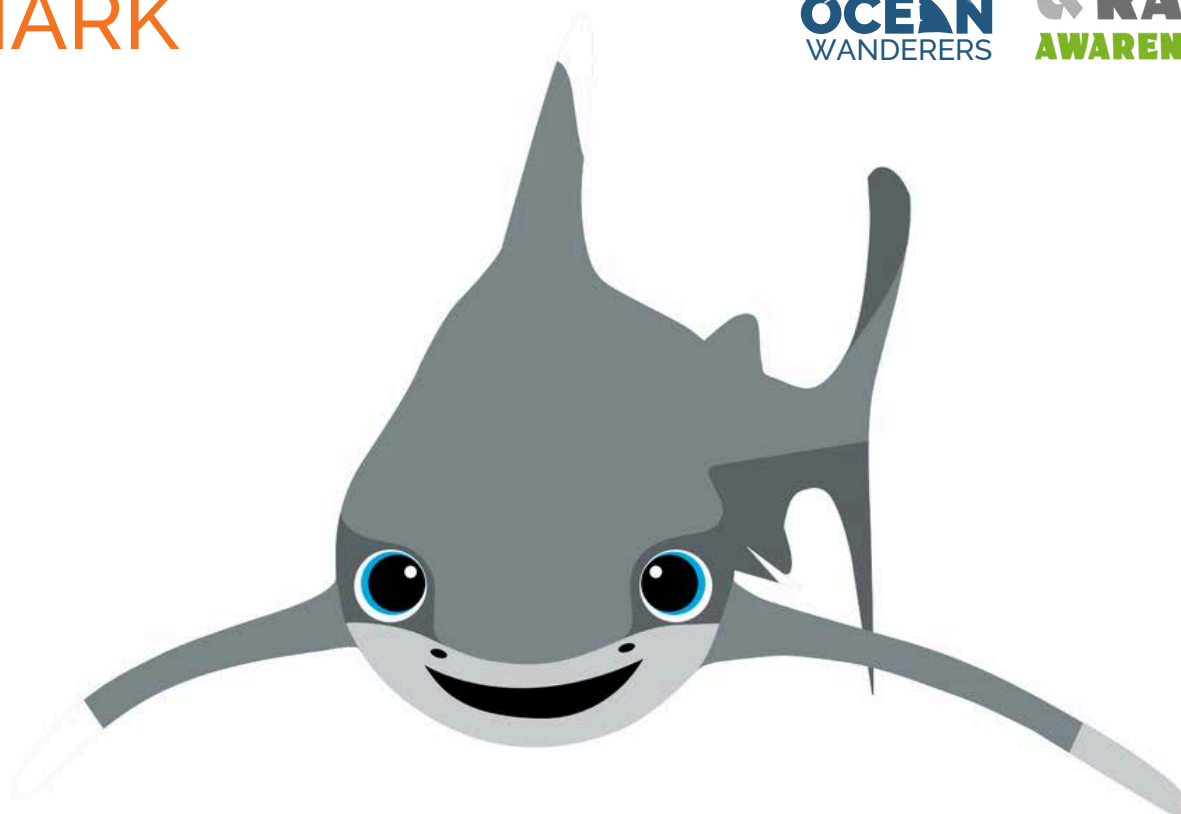
## **OCEANIC WHITE TIP**

Oceanic Whitetip Sharks live out in the open ocean, far from land. The tips of their fins are white, which gives them their name.



**SHARK**  
**TRUST**

# NAME THAT SHARK



|    |   |    |    |    |    |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|---|----|----|----|----|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| A  | B | C  | D  | E  | F  | G | H  | I  | J  | K  | L  | M  |
| 17 | 1 | 11 | 26 | 16 | 8  | 6 | 15 | 13 | 25 | 9  | 18 | 24 |
| N  | O | P  | Q  | R  | S  | T | U  | V  | W  | X  | Y  | Z  |
| 12 | 7 | 2  | 22 | 19 | 20 | 5 | 10 | 21 | 4  | 23 | 14 | 3  |

|    |
|----|
|    |
| 13 |

|    |    |
|----|----|
|    |    |
| 17 | 24 |

|    |    |
|----|----|
|    |    |
| 17 | 12 |

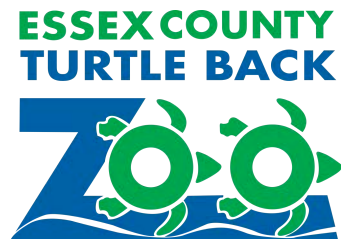
|   |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|
|   |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| 7 | 11 | 16 | 17 | 12 | 13 | 11 |

|   |    |    |   |    |   |    |   |
|---|----|----|---|----|---|----|---|
|   |    |    |   |    |   |    |   |
| 4 | 15 | 13 | 5 | 16 | 5 | 13 | 2 |

|    |    |    |    |   |
|----|----|----|----|---|
|    |    |    |    |   |
| 20 | 15 | 17 | 19 | 9 |

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JULY  
**AWARENESS DAY**

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**THANK YOU**

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