Are sharks the scary predators that we often see on TV? Do they munch on anything they see or sense swimming near them? By taking a closer look you will soon discover why they are not, and they do not! Sharks have been swimming the world’s oceans for millions of years. Over that time, sharks evolved a variety of different shapes, mouths and feeding methods that make them uniquely suited to hunt for their prey of choice. Do you have a favorite shark? With so many different colors, patterns, shapes and sizes it can be hard to choose! Let’s learn a bit more about shark diversity and see how much we eat compared to the average shark throughout a week.

**These activities are designed for families with children in grades 3-5.** Educators can see an overview of all activities and classroom recommendations at sheddaquarium.org/files/shark-teachers-guide.
MATERIALS

• **Science journal:** See instructions on how to make a science journal at sheddaquarium.org/files/science-journal or make your own notes on a piece of paper

• **Writing and coloring devices:** pencil, pen, markers, crayons, or colored pencils

• **Shark activity sheets:** Copy your own as we go along, or print out the sheets on pages 4, 6, and 8.

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**SHARK FEEDING STRATEGIES PART 1/2**

In this exploration, we are going to learn about the diet, tooth shape and feeding strategies of four incredibly different shark species and then do our best to imagine what a complete set of jaws looks like for each shark.

*Bonus fact: because shark bones are made of cartilage, teeth are the most common type of shark fossil!*
Frenzy Feeders or Picky Eaters?

SHARK FEEDING STRATEGIES PART 2/2

Step 1 · Science Journal: Print out or draw the “Shark Feeding Data Sheet” on page 4 and add it to your science journal.

Step 2 · Science Journal: Watch the shark feeding video at youtu.be/nyYC-qbzIvPA to learn more about how and what four different species of sharks eat. Take note of how all their mouths are shaped differently! Record your notes on the Shark Feeding Data Sheet on page 4.

• If you’re curious and want to learn even more about some incredible sharks, visit Shedd Aquarium’s sharks webpage at sheddaquarium.org/animals/sharks!

Step 3 · Science Journal: After you fill out your data table, use your notes to hypothesize, or make a guess, as to what the jaws of each shark would look like with teeth in them. Then, draw teeth on the empty sets of jaws. Try to use what you learned and be creative!

Last Step · Science Journal: Answer these questions in your science journal:

• Which shark do you think spends the most time feeding and why?

• Which shark do you think spends the most energy in order to acquire its food and why?
**SHARK FEEDING DATA SHEET:** Watch the shark feeding video, paying attention to the way four different species of sharks eat, and how each of their differently shaped mouths help them do that. Record your notes in the table below.

youtube.com/watch?v=nyYC-qbzI_PA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DIET</th>
<th>TOOTH SHAPE</th>
<th>HUNTING STRATEGY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ZEBRA SHARK</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BLACKTIP REEF SHARK</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WOBBEGONG SHARK</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WHALE SHARK</strong></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**WHAT DO YOU THINK EACH SHARK’S TEETH LOOK LIKE?**

After you fill out your data table, use your notes to hypothesize, or make a guess, as to what the jaws of each shark would look like with teeth in them. Then, draw teeth on the empty sets of jaws. **Use what you learned and be creative!**

Which shark do you think spends the most time feeding and why?

Which shark do you think spends the most energy in order to acquire its food? Why?
In this exploration, we will compare how much you eat with how much a sandbar shark eats in a week.

**Step 1 • Science Journal:** Print out or copy the “How much does a sandbar shark eat in a week?” activity sheet on page 6 and add it to your science journal.

**Step 2 • Science Journal:** In your science journal or on a separate sheet of paper, make a prediction: In one week, who do you think eats more: you or a sandbar shark that can weigh up to 150 pounds?

**Step 3 • Science Journal:** First, let’s find out how much a sandbar shark at Shedd eats in a week. Select four items from the “How much does a sandbar shark eat in a week?” activity sheet for it to eat, then add up how many pounds of food that is in one day.

**Step 4 • Science Journal:** Sandbar sharks at Shedd eat three times every week, so multiply the daily total by three to find out how much each shark eats in a week. In your science journal, answer this question: How much food does a Sandbar shark at Shedd eat in one week?
First, let’s find out how much a sandbar shark at Shedd eats in a day.

Select **FOUR items from the options above**.

**Prediction:** In one week, who do you think eats more: you or a sandbar shark (that can weigh up to 150 pounds)?

**HOW MUCH DOES A SANDBAR SHARK EAT IN ONE WEEK?**

- Clam • ½ pound
- Mullet • ½ pound
- Shrimp • ½ pound
- Squid • ½ pound
- Herring • ½ pound
- Capelin • ½ pound

Next, add up the weights of all four food items to find out how many pounds of food that is in one day.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pound</th>
<th>Pound</th>
<th>Pound</th>
<th>Pound</th>
<th>Pounds Per Day</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>______</td>
<td>______</td>
<td>______</td>
<td>______</td>
<td>______</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sandbar sharks at Shedd eat three times every week, so **multiply the daily total by three to find out how much each shark eats in a week.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pounds Per Day</th>
<th>3 Meals Per Week</th>
<th>Pounds In A Week</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>______ pounds</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>______ pounds</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Conclusion:** How much food does a Sandbar shark at Shedd eat in one week?
WHO EATS MORE: YOU OR A SHARK? PART 2/3

Step 5 · Science Journal: Now, let’s find out roughly how much food you might eat in one week. Print out or copy the “How much do you eat in a week?” activity sheet on page 8 and add it to your science journal.

Step 6 · Science Journal: Circle or write down one item for each meal of the day – if you don’t eat a snack, just leave it blank! Then, add up the weights of all the menu items you selected to find out how much food you eat in one day.

Last Step · Science Journal: Finally, multiply how much you eat in one day by seven to find out how much food you eat in a week. In your science journal, answer this question: How much food do you eat in one week?
Print and cut out these data sheets to add to your science journal or draw your own version on a blank page.

**STAY HOME WITH SHEDD AQUARIUM • FRENZY FEEDERS OR PICKY EATERS?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BREAKFAST</th>
<th>LUNCH</th>
<th>SNACK</th>
<th>DINNER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eggs • ½ pound</td>
<td>Salad • ½ pound</td>
<td>Fruit • ¼ pound</td>
<td>Hot Dog • 1 pound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cereal • ½ pound</td>
<td>Sandwich • ½ pound</td>
<td>Fries • ½ pound</td>
<td>Spaghetti • 1 pound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pancakes • ½ pound</td>
<td>Tacos • ½ pound</td>
<td>Yoghurt • ¼ pound</td>
<td>Pizza • 1 pound</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**HOW MUCH DO YOU EAT IN A WEEK?**

First, circle ONE menu item from the options above for each meal of the day.

Next, add up the weights of all the menu items you chose to find out how many pounds of food you eat in one day.

Finally, multiply how much you eat in one day by seven to find out how many pounds you eat in a week!

**Conclusion:** How much food do you eat in one week?
WHO EATS MORE: YOU OR A SHARK? PART 3/3

Chances are, you eat more than a Sandbar shark would in an average week! But why is that? First, sharks are exothermic (exo- means outside; thermic means heat) which means their body temperature is based on the environment around them—we usually refer to this as cold-blooded. Humans are endothermic (endo- means internal, or inside; thermic means heat) which means that we control our body temperature from the inside and are warm-blooded. It takes a lot more energy for warm-blooded animals to warm their own bodies than it does for cold-blooded animals using the environment. To acquire that energy, we need to eat! Eating gives our body the energy to produce heat which is why we need to consume more food than a shark that may be larger than us. It turns out that sharks aren’t predators who try to eat everything around them, and it just may be humans who are the frenzied feeders!

SHARE WITH US!
We want to see your explorations! Take a picture of your notes or drawings and share it with us @SheddLearning using #StayHomeWithShedd.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR EXPERIENCE!
Your feedback helps us create new content for you and your family to enjoy from home. surveymonkey.com/r/StayHomeShedd