



# SHARK POACHING LESSON ACTIVITY SHEET

TEACHING RESOURCE: SECONDARY SCHOOL (Age 11 – 16)

## Lesson Summary

Overfishing is emptying the ocean, with 90% of fisheries already overfished. Illegal fishing is having a big impact. This lesson focuses on the shark poaching aspect of illegal fishing.



## Activities

These activities are designed to enhance and expand on the key learnings from the Shark Poaching lesson. They can be used as part of the Lesson or assigned for research or projects.

## English

**LEARNING SKILLS** – Understanding, questioning, research, communicate, critical thinking, empathy, explanation, teamwork and global citizenship.

### Activity 1

Write an essay discussing the moral reasons why extinction of sharks should not result from the use of herbal remedy products?

### Activity 2

Set up a debate with teams or individuals to debate the for and against of one of the following topics:

“Is it morally acceptable that shark species become endangered, so they can be used for herbal remedies or shark fin soup?”



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## Geography

**LEARNING SKILLS** – Understanding, questioning, research, communicate, explanation.

### Activity 1

On a world map identify the countries Sea Shepherd Case Study campaigns are being conducted in. Identify the continent and ocean, find the geographical coordinates of the capital cities of these countries.

Identify two underwater coastal geographical features for each of these countries and three marine species that live there.



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## History

**LEARNING SKILLS** – Understanding, questioning, research, communicate, critical thinking and explanation.

### Activity 1

Research and write a report on the history of why shark fin soup, shark liver oil or shark cartilage products became so popular, particularly in Asian cultures. Analyse if these reasons are still valid in the modern culture.



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## Math

**LEARNING SKILLS** – Problem solving, calculation, measurement and comparison.

### Activity 1

Shark liver oil – 50 tonnes of shark liver oil = 66,000 sharks

If it takes one vessel 6 weeks to catch 66,000 sharks, calculate:

- How many sharks would be taken per month?
- How many sharks could a fleet of 50 ships take in a year and how many tonnes of shark liver oil would this produce?
- How many ships would it take to kill 100 million sharks per year?



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## Science

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**LEARNING SKILLS** – Understanding, questioning, research, analyse, communicate, critical thinking and explanation.

### Activity 1

Research and explain the two ways in which sharks breathe?

How does this impact their potential to survive being trapped in fishing nets?

### Activity 2

Investigate the different uses of shark fins, skin, oil in various products. Evaluate whether these could be replaced with other products and analyse the impact this would have on the demand for sharks.



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## Social Science

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**LEARNING SKILLS** – Understanding, questioning, research, communicate, critical thinking, empathy, explanation and global citizenship.

### Activity 1

**CITES** – investigate the process by which decisions are made and how countries can influence the decision not to include an endangered species.

Write a report outlining your findings and explain why you think a country would block the inclusion of a shark species on the protected list.

<https://cites.org/eng>

### Activity 2

Shark poaching is not always undertaken by large scale operations. Illegal poaching also operates from shore based poachers catching small numbers daily around the coast of many countries in Africa and Asia. These poachers make significant money from shark fins, compared to normal wages available to them.

Write a report on how you would solve this issue and help create alternative employment to reduce shark finning?





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## Art

**LEARNING SKILLS** – Creative thinking, communicate and research.

### Activity 1

There are over 400 species of shark. Pick one of the stranger and less known species and create a drawing or painting showing in their natural habitat.

### Activity 2

Create your own comic around Sea Shepherd superheroes who protect sharks from harm.

## YOUR FEEDBACK

We value your feedback and would be pleased to hear your thoughts about this lesson and activities. Any comments, suggestions or requests for further information can be sent to [education@seashepherdglobal.org](mailto:education@seashepherdglobal.org)