

Lesson Summary

Sharks are facing a number of threats, including poaching and by-catch in nets of the commercial fishing industry. Many shark species are endangered as a result.



Activities

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

English

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

Activity 1

Debate or write a report on the following topic:

“Are sharks really monsters or just misunderstood ocean guardians?”

Activity 2

“People protect what they love.” Jacques Yves Cousteau

Discuss the following:

- What does the quote mean to you?
- How does this quote reflect the public perception of sharks and why we kill millions each year?
- Analyse the meaning and discuss in class (reflection)?

Geography

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

Activity 1

Research the Galapagos Islands or Sea of Cortez and write a report on the following:

- Identify unique features on land and in the sea.
- Determine what shark species can be found there.
- Why do they live or visit this area?
- What other marine species can be found in this area?

History

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

Activity 1

Sharks are both respected and feared in different cultures. Research through history and find which cultures have:

- Admired and protected sharks.
- Fear and cull sharks as a threat to humans.
- Use sharks for herbal remedies and food.

Identify the motivations and reasons for their behaviour on how they treat the ocean and other marine species. Your report should include areas such as customs and beliefs, connection to the ocean, what they eat, medicine, fishing and the money made by killing sharks.

Activity 2

Attitudes toward sharks have changed over the years. Many cultures in the Pacific region respect and value sharks. In western countries the attitude toward sharks is not as respectful.

Investigate why and when the attitude to sharks became so negative, why shark culls have occurred. Is this attitude based on perception or reality?

SHARKS LESSON ACTIVITY SHEET

TEACHING RESOURCE: SECONDARY SCHOOL (Age 11 – 16)

Science

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

Activity 1

Determine what the implications would be for the ocean, if species like sharks didn't clean up dead marine life?

Activity 2

Research an endangered shark species and write a report, including the sharks life cycle, food sources, where it lives, migration and threats faced, including human?

Social Science

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

Activity 1

How would you advocate for a change in opinion about sharks.

Given the number of sharks killed each year and their role in the ecosystem, write an article that advocates for the protection of sharks.

Activity 2

Shark fin soup is popular in some cultures. The demand for shark fins is having a huge Impact on shark species. How would you encourage people to stop eating shark fin soup? Create your own campaign to stop sharks dying:

- Scope out the issue.
- Create a plan for your campaign – identify key messages you will use and how you will convey your message.
- Design and create you campaign materials.

This can be an article, social media campaign, videos, pamphlet. Anything that you think would reach your target audience.

Arts / Media

LEARNING SKILLS – Creative thinking, research, communicate, critical thinking, empathy, explanation, advocate and global citizenship.

Activity 1

Create an artwork or infographic to change peoples' opinions about sharks. Why we should learn to respect and appreciate sharks.

Activity 2

Create an artwork entitled 'extinction is forever' representing sharks disappearing from the ocean.

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