



Shark Tooth Hunt



BIG QUESTION

HOW ARE SHARK TEETH SHAPED?



NEW WORD

(5 min)

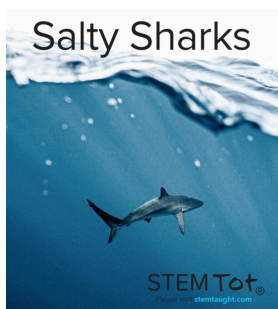
Jaw: The jaw is the part of your face that helps you open and close your mouth. It holds your teeth and helps you chew your food.

Say: **Sharks have strong jaws and sharp teeth that help them eat meat. But don't worry, they usually don't bother people. Sharks are amazing creatures that help keep the ocean balanced and healthy!**

Show students the pictures of sharks on the website's picture gallery and talk about the many different kinds of sharks. Point out their different shapes and silhouettes.

STORY TIME

(10 min)



Instructions: Read the story for the day. It is a STEMTot Tiny Book titled 'Salty Sharks'. Students may have preconceived notions about sharks as being scary. Discuss that there are many different types of sharks.

STEM TIME

(30-60 min)

Materials:

- Glue
- Crayons
- Outdoor materials
- Paper
- Shark teeth or sunflower seeds (optional)



SHARK TOOTH HUNT!

Instructions:

Note: If you have mirrors easily available in your classroom, let students look at and examine the shape of their own teeth. Many of your students may already have a full set of baby teeth (around 20).

Ask: **Humans have less teeth than sharks. We also have teeth in different shapes, for different purposes. Which teeth of yours are the pointiest?**

Ask: **What shape is a shark tooth? Why do you think their teeth are so pointy?**

Watch this movie on digging for fossil shark teeth.

<https://youtu.be/p5PrzGqb7K0>

Say: **Sharks have a lot of teeth and they also loose a lot of teeth. They can loose thousands of teeth in their lifetime! The teeth they loose fall to the sea floor. Sometimes they wash in with waves and sometimes you can find teeth from millions of years ago that turned into fossils. Do you want to go on a shark tooth hunt?**

2. Let them know this is a pretend shark tooth hunt. Have students go outside and find things that look like shark teeth (for example: leaves, bark, blades of grass. You can even scatter sunflower seeds around the grass for them to find.) Let students spend lots of time exploring outside, and talk about the shapes they see. Remind them that pointy teeth might help sharks eat meat. As students explore the outdoors, speak to them about the amazing materials they choose. Compliment their choices as great teeth for carnivores.

3. Let students count the teeth they gather and count the teeth on the card stock. Ask them to tell you more about the shark: is it a baby? A grown up? What is its name?

4. Students color the shark and glue on teeth or they can keep their teeth and take them home.

Extension activity: Hide shark teeth in sand or kinetic sand for students to find. Hide other objects you might find at the beach like shells and sticks, small toys etc. Let them enjoy some play at a sand table.