



WILD CLASSROOM

Conservation in the Classroom

Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them: Bizarre Sharks and Rays

February 3, 2022

2 pm EST/11 am PST

Recommended grade levels: 2–6

Watch live on [Conservation in the Classroom](#)

View recording on the [Wild Classroom YouTube channel](#)

Join shark scientist Jasmin Graham and learn about some of the strangest sharks and rays in our oceans. Participants will learn all about these animals, how Jasmin studies them, and how she works to protect them.

The Presenter



Jasmin Graham

WWF Conservation Leadership Award
Winner

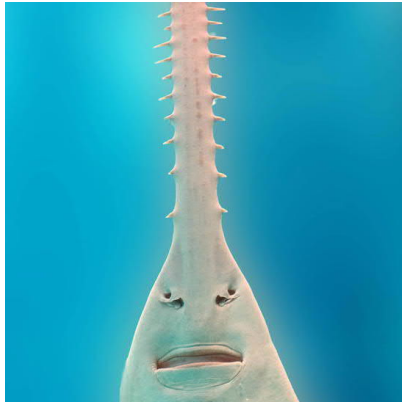
President and CEO of Minorities in Shark
Sciences

BELL-RINGERS

Help prepare your learners by introducing the topic with these warm-up questions.

Identify

Can you identify the creatures below based on their unique characteristics? Write the correct animal's name underneath its photo: **WHALE SHARK**, **HAMMERHEAD SHARK**, and **SAWFISH**.



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Reflect

Sharks have been on this planet for over 400 million years, even outliving the dinosaurs. Why do you think they've been able to survive this long and overcome past extinction periods?

Define

Sharks play an important role in marine ecosystems because, as top predators, they keep populations of other animals in balance. Sharks are also considered an **indicator species**, which helps scientists learn more about their environment. What is an indicator species? Create a definition below:

Explain

To be able to fish, you are required to have a license, and there are rules in place that limit the number and type of fish and other animals you may catch. Why do you think it's important to have these rules and restrictions?



Planning to watch the event live? Write your question(s) for the presenter here:

INFORMATIONAL RESOURCES

Use these web articles and videos to provide background information to your learners on sharks, rays, and their marine habitats.

- Web page: [WWF Oceans initiative](#)
- Web page: [Ocean habitats](#)
- Web page: [Shark Facts vs. Shark Myths](#)
- Web page: [Five ways sharks and rays help the world](#)
- Web page: [Overfishing puts more than one-third of all sharks, rays, and chimaeras at the risk of extinction](#)
- Web page: [Shark](#)
- Web page: [Bycatch](#)
- Web page: [Overfishing](#)
- Video: [Top Facts About Sharks](#)
- Video: [Do We Need Sharks?](#)
- Video: [10 Amazing Shark Species](#)

HOW TO HELP

- Web page: [7 ways you can help save the ocean](#)
- Web article: [The problem with plastic in nature and what you can do to help](#)
- Web article: [Green Tips](#)



ACTIVITIES

Check out these lesson plans to supplement the content from the event.

[Ocean conservation activities in sea turtle toolkit](#)

Use lessons from the sea turtle toolkit such as “Be Careful What You Fish For” and “A Need for the Seas” to educate your learners on the importance of protecting oceans and marine species.

Grades 3–5



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[WWF Together App: Shark](#)

Use your smartphone or tablet to download the WWF Together app and check out the shark feature. Engage with an interactive visual tool to learn all about sharks and create a shark origami craft.

All ages



[Our Coastal Seas discussion guide](#)

The *Our Coastal Seas* episode of the Netflix series *Our Planet* uncovers the importance of shallow seas and why they are in decline. Use this discussion guide to further the conversation on topics including ecosystem interdependence and human impact.

Grades 5–12



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ASSESSMENTS

Conclude your lesson on sharks and rays with these resources and fun assessment tools.

[Kahoot! Oceans collection](#)

- All About Sharks and Rays
- Threats to Oceans
- Importance of Oceans

Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them: Bizarre Sharks and Rays worksheet

Use the worksheet on the following page as an assignment or a quiz following the viewing of the Conservation in the Classroom event.

Answer key (for questions on the next page):

- 1) a & c
- 2) ray
- 3) true
- 4) b
- 5) bycatch
- 6) false
- 7) d
- 8) c





Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them: Bizarre Sharks and Rays

Answer the following questions after learning about sharks and rays.

1. Why do many species of sharks swim through shallow coastal waters? (two answers)
 - a. To feed
 - b. To hide from predators
 - c. To give birth
 - d. To harm humans

2. Is the sawfish considered a shark or a ray? _____

3. True or False: You're more likely to get struck by lightning than be attacked by a shark.

4. What is the number one threat facing sharks and rays?
 - a. Deforestation
 - b. Overfishing
 - c. Agriculture
 - d. Plastic pollution

5. What is the term for when fish or other animals are caught accidentally in fishing nets?

6. True or False: Like most fishes, sharks and rays have bones.

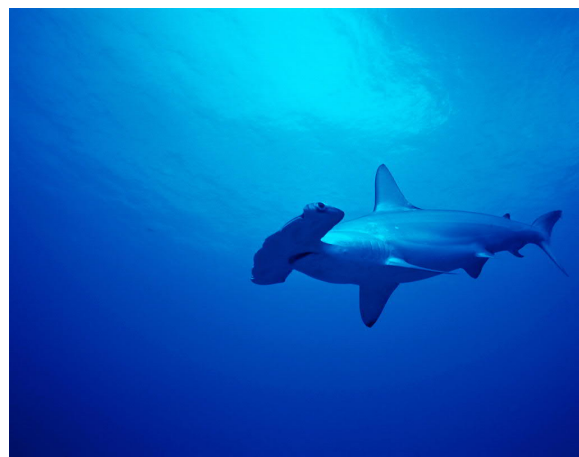
7. Which of the following shark traits makes their populations vulnerable?
 - a. Their ability to replenish their teeth
 - b. Having denticles (tiny teeth) instead of scales covering their skin
 - c. Having a protective eyelid
 - d. Their slow growth and low reproductive rate

8. Currently, _____ of all sharks and rays are facing extinction.

- a. 10%
- b. 20%
- c. 30%
- d. 40%

9. Sharks often get a bad, undeserved reputation. How would you advocate for sharks? Write a few sentences as to why sharks are important and why we shouldn't fear them.

10. Sharks provide a lot of ecotourism opportunities to areas with shark diving tours. Would you ever want to go diving with sharks? Why or why not?



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