

SHARK WEEK!

AGES

Children 5+ years

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

A fun program that includes a simple STEAM demonstration, active games that work well outdoors, and three crafts. You could run this as a party with multiple stations, or spread activities out over a week. Alternatively, pick and choose activities to use as filler for other programs or events. Two shark coloring pages are included. Suggested runtime: Flexible.

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

Shark Float Demonstration

Materials: Two empty plastic bottles or bags, markers, oil, water, large container in which to float the bottles

Instructions:

- Using your marker draw a shark (or shark teeth) on each of your water bottles.
- Fill one bottle with water and the other with oil. Seal tightly.
- Fill your container $\frac{3}{4}$ with water, enough room for the shark to sink.
- Place both bottles of water in the container and observe.

Shark buoyancy facts

- Sharks need to keep moving all the time. Otherwise, they will sink!
- Most fish have a special organ that is filled with gas, which helps them to float. Sharks do not. This means that they can safely move to different depths more quickly, but it also means that they have to work harder to stay afloat.
- One of the ways that sharks stay buoyant is by using their oil-filled livers.
- Oil is lighter than water, which is why the oil-filled bottle floats, and how sharks stay afloat.
- Sharks use their fins and tails to stay moving. They also have cartilage rather than bones, which helps them to be lighter.

TIP:

Shark Binoculars and Shark Origami are easily adapted to take-and-make bags.

TIP:

For another shark-based program/craft, see Shark Lady Suncatcher on page 78, a program based on the career of Eugenie Clark.

TIP:

If running multiple stations, consider creating passport-style booklets for participants to keep track of what's coming next (particularly helpful for autistic participants).

Questions you can ask:

- What do you think will happen with each of the bottles?
- What happened with each of the bottles?
- Did you guess what would happen correctly?
- Why do you think one bottle sank while the other floated?



Image source: Sidnie Srader of Jones Public Library, Dayton, TX

Shark Games

See *The Spruce* for simple shark games/activities that you can take outside: <https://bit.ly/3vtozsN>. These all work as icebreakers or fillers as well.

Shark Binoculars Craft

See the *Pink Stripey Socks* blog for detailed instructions:
<https://bit.ly/2R011Na>

Materials: 2 toilet paper rolls or craft paper rolls, blue construction paper (or any color you wish) white construction paper, scissors, markers, tape or glue, hole punch, ribbon or yarn.

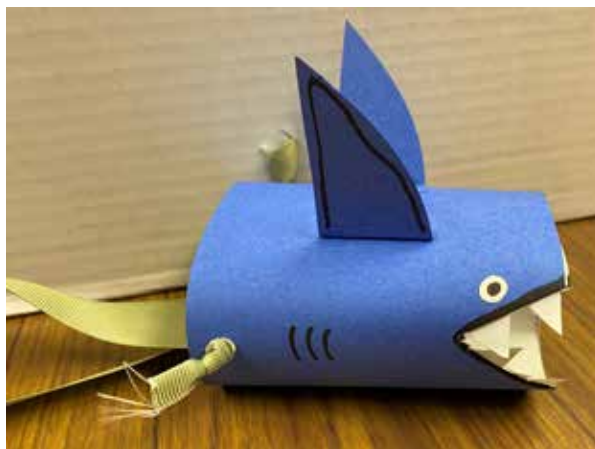


Image source: Azita Frattarelli of Riverview Veterans Memorial Library, Riverview, MI

TIP:

Cutting out the small fins, teeth, and eyes can be done before the program for younger children.

Glittery Floating Shark Craft

Materials: Empty water bottles with the labels off, blue glitter glue, silver or blue glitter, water, grey foam paper, black permanent marker, scissors, funnels for pouring for participants who have difficulty with fine motor skills. Optional: shark stencil printed on heavy cardstock.

Instructions:

- Cut a small shark shape out of the grey foam. You can use the optional shark stencil to trace the shape, or you can draw it freehand. Make sure that the shark is small enough to “swim” in the bottle.
- Decorate your shark with permanent marker, adding eyes, fins, etc.
- Add the blue glitter glue to the empty water bottle, using about 3 oz, or half a bottle. The more glitter glue you add, the darker the water will be (and the harder it will be to see the shark).
- Fill the rest of the bottle with water, leaving some space at the top.
- Add as much silver or blue glitter as you like. This can get messy!
- Roll the foam shark into a tube shape to fit it through the neck of the bottle. Push it in and close the bottle tightly.
- Shake the bottle to mix everything together.

Origami Shark Bookmarks

This is an easy origami project; however, it still involves careful following of directions and careful folding, which would be better for older children. See Resources for full instructions; see also Printables for a slightly more difficult version of shark origami.

Materials: Origami paper (6x6 inches) in light blue, pink, and white; white cardstock; scissors; clear-drying craft glue; googly eyes or eyeball stickers

UNIQUE SPACE AND/OR PERSONNEL NEEDS

Large space required for the games and/or a multistation shark party. Activities work well outdoors.

TIP:

See Shark Lady Suncatcher on page 78 for printable shark silhouettes.

RESOURCES

Web

“Top 10 Shark Party Activities” from *The Spruce*: <https://bit.ly/3vtozsN>

Shark binoculars from *Pink Stripey Place*: <https://bit.ly/2R011Na>

Glitter shark bottle from *Modern Mom Life*: <https://bit.ly/3wCb4aj>

Simple origami shark bookmark from *Kids Activities*: <https://bit.ly/3fOnaqa>

Shark activity ideas for teens/tweens from *Bryce Kozla Blog*:
<https://bit.ly/3bZOr7J>

Books

Non-fiction

Smart About Sharks! (2016) by Owen Davey (children’s)

Shark Lady: The True Story of How Eugenie Clark Became the Ocean’s Most Fearless Scientist (2017) by Jess Keating and Marta Álvarez Miguéns (children’s)

If Sharks Disappeared (2017) by Lily Williams (children’s)

Neighborhood Sharks: Hunting with the Great Whites of California’s Farallon Islands (2014) by Katherine Roy (children’s)

Fiction

Land Shark (2015) by Beth Ferry and Ben Mantle (children’s)

Sea Creatures from the Sky (2018) by Ricardo Cortés (children’s)

The Line Tender (2019) by Kate Allen (children’s/YA)

Printables

Origami Shark Template

Shark Coloring Sheet (children)

Shark Coloring Sheet (tweens)

