

# When Sharks Go Swimming...



## Objective

Students will learn how animals survive within certain habitats as they are introduced to various habitats and ecosystems.

## Materials

- copies of *When Sharks Go Swimming...* worksheets per student
- construction paper for the cover
- white paper for drawing
- stapler or yarn to secure book pages
- crayons or markers

## Background

As a group, sharks are adapted for a wide range of aquatic habitats and eat almost anything. Listed below are different sharks that are adapted for a particular habitat.

- **leopard sharks.** These sharks are found in kelp forests. Their spotted coloration camouflages them from larger predators in the shady kelp fronds. Their sleek body allows them to easily navigate through the dense forest.
- **nurse sharks.** These sharks are found on sandy bottoms of the ocean floor. They have a long, almost flattened tail to allow them to rest on the bottom. Their brown and sometimes mottled coloration camouflages them with their habitat.
- **great white sharks.** These sharks are found in the open ocean. Their large, muscular body and powerful tail help them to swim fast. They are light to dark gray in coloration on top and white underneath, camouflaging them from their prey.
- **white-spotted bamboo sharks.** The small size of these sharks allows them to squeeze into coral reefs. Their spotted coloration allows them to blend in with their coral and rocky surroundings to hide from larger sharks and other predators.

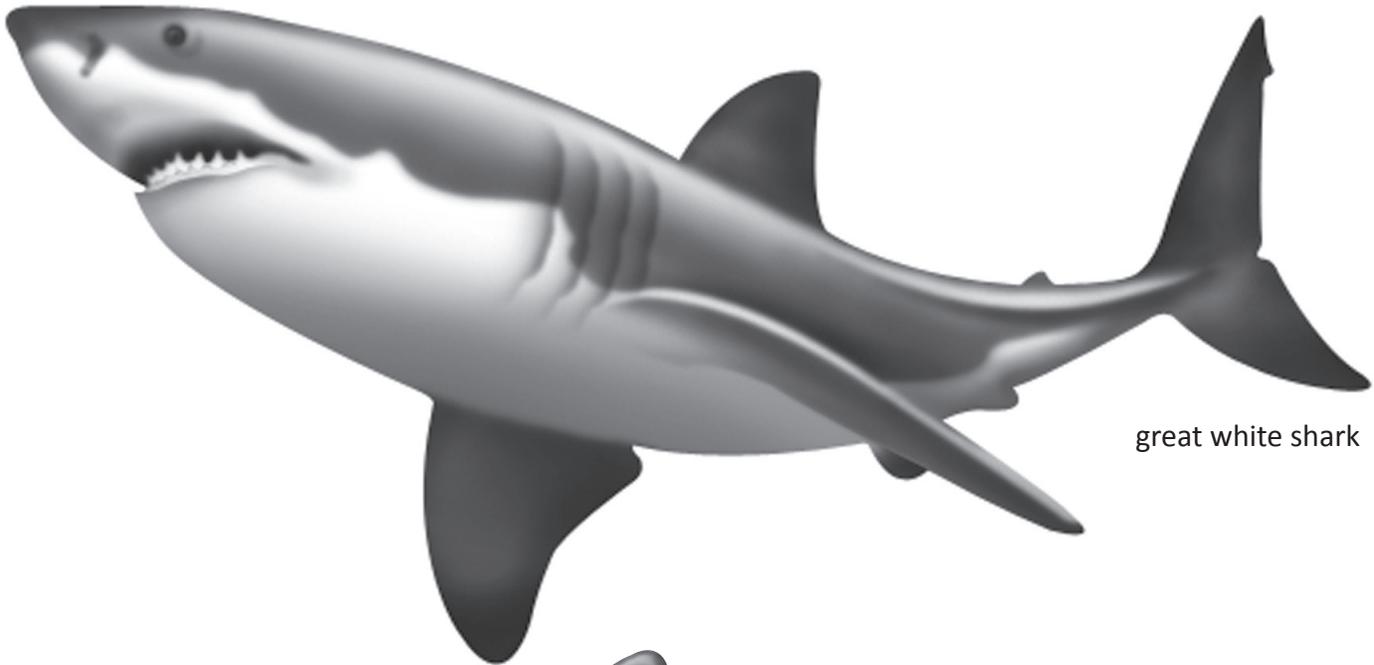
## Action

1. List the following four habitats on the board: kelp forest, sandy bottom, open ocean, and coral reef. Ask students to describe what each of these habitats looks like.
2. Distribute copies of the worksheet to each student. Have students cut out each drawing.
3. Discuss with students which shark would be suited for each of the four habitats. Discuss how their adaptations help them thrive in these environments.
4. Ask students what other ocean animals besides sharks might live in these habitats. What would a shark living here eat? Write down student responses so they may use them later.
5. Help each student create a book with four pages to draw and write on. Use construction paper for the covers and white paper for the inside pages. Secure the pages by stapling or tying with yarn.
6. Title the book "When Sharks Go Swimming... At the top of each page, write the phrase "This shark sees...." Students can either complete the phrase with words or drawings. Students will draw a picture of the shark's habitat and glue the appropriate shark in the habitat.

# When Sharks Go Swimming...



1. Cut each shark out.
2. Make a book using construction paper for the cover and white paper for the inside pages.
3. Title your book, "When Sharks Go Swimming..."
4. On each page write "This shark sees..." Then you can draw what their habitat looks like and what they might eat. Glue each shark into the correct habitat.



great white shark



leopard shark



white-spotted bamboo shark



nurse shark