



PROGRAM GOALS

- ☞ Observe tropical fish and sharks
- ☞ Compare and contrast based on their observations

GRADES

4th to 6th

MATERIALS

- ☞ Pencils
- ☞ Clipboards

STANDARDS

- ☞ SCI.5.3.1
- ☞ SCI.6.3.1

RECOMMENDED ASSESSMENT

- ☞ Check students' papers for completion

How Are They Alike and Different?

Practice your student's critical thinking skills, while they learn about Fort Wayne Children's Zoo blacktip reef sharks and fish. Sharks and fish may many similarities, but each of them has their own unique characteristics. See below for a variety of questions to engage your students even further:

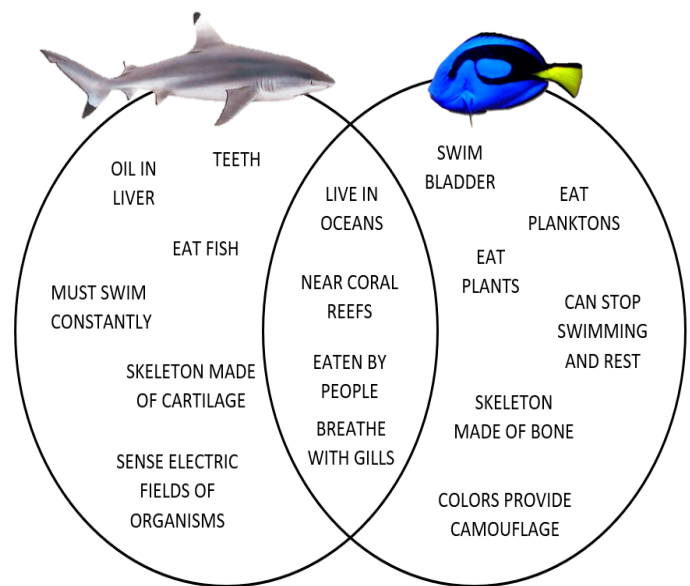
- ☞ What are some differences you notice between a shark and fish?
- ☞ How does sharks and fish look alike?
- ☞ How do they maintain their buoyancy?
- ☞ What do they eat?
- ☞ Where do you think they live?
- ☞ Do people like to eat them?
- ☞ Do they have to swim all of the time?
- ☞ What is their skeleton made of?
- ☞ How do they breathe in the oceans?

Have students write down the differences and similarities between a blacktip reef shark and fish in the Venn Diagram. As your child is completing the worksheet, share some fantastic information about sharks and fish below. For an extra challenge, have your child compare fish with a different shark! Be on the lookout for the fish and observe their characteristics at the zoo! Share your lessons with the Fort Wayne Children' Zoo. Tag #fwkidszoo or email education@kidszoo.org to express how you used these supplemental activities!

Fun Facts:

Sharks are classified as fish too. The tropical fish have internal skeletons made of ossified bones, while the shark's skeleton is made of cartilage. The tropical fish comes in a wide variety of shapes and the colors reflect how they hide, find food or mate. All fish breathe with gills, where the oxygenated water passes over the gills and the oxygen move into the blood stream. Lastly, the tiny sensors called ampullae of Lorenzini on the shark's snout, which detect the weak electrical fields given off by every animal – for example, a flounder buried in sand.

Answer Key:

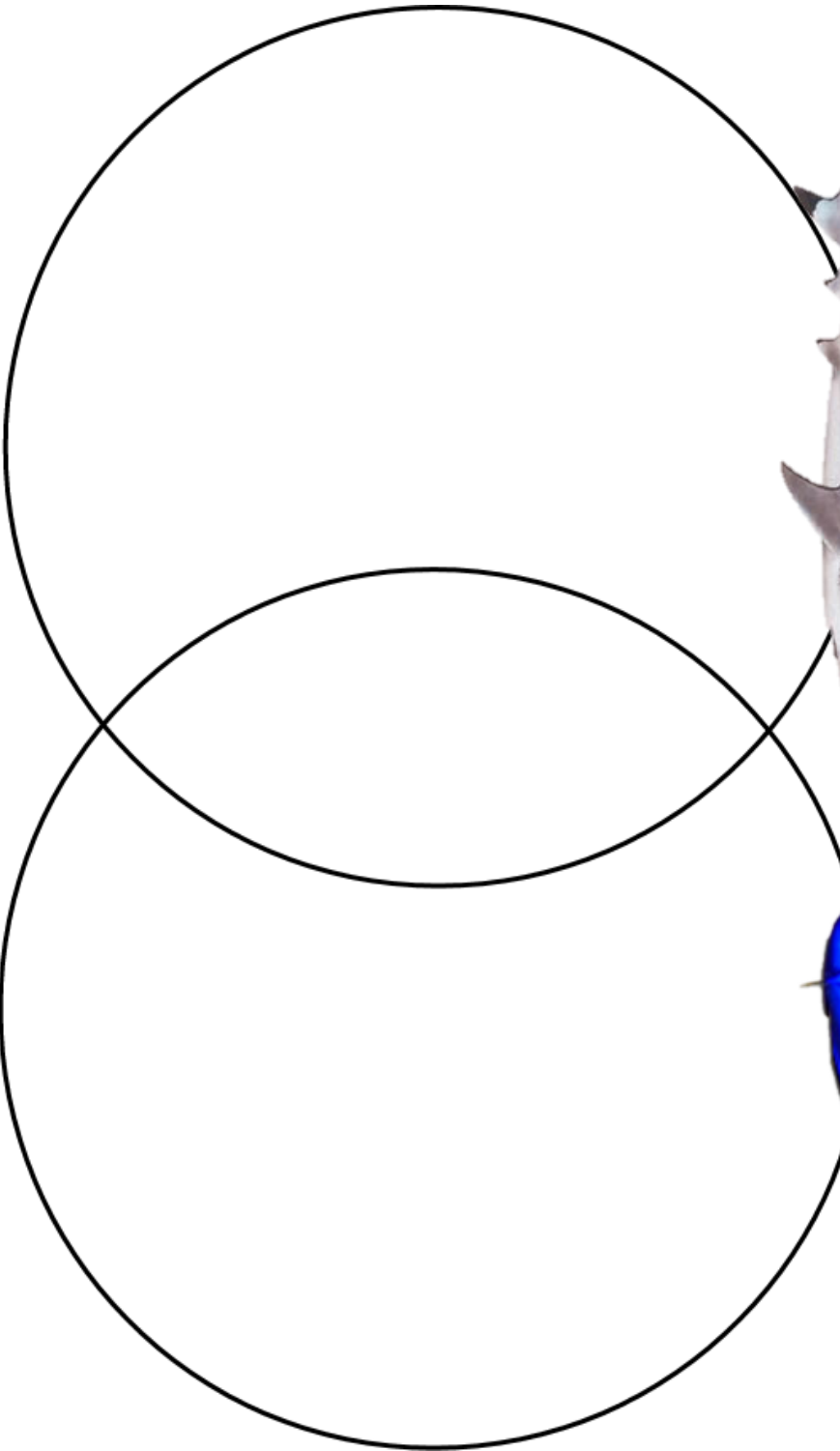


Sharks vs. Fish



Name: _____

Use word bank below to fill in the Venn Diagram. Use your knowledge of life in oceans, and add as many characteristics as you can. Can you add different ideas of your own?



OIL IN LIVER
TEETH
EAT PLANTS
BREATHE WITH GILLS
SWIM BLADDER

SKELETON MADE OF BONE
EATEN BY PEOPLE
MUST SWIM CONSTANTLY
EAT PLANKTONS
EAT FISH

NEAR CORAL REEFS
SENSE ELECTRIC FIELDS OF ORGANISMS
SKELETON MADE OF CARTILAGE

COLORS PROVIDE CAMOUFLAGE
LIVE IN OCEANS
CAN STOP SWIMMING AND REST