

Schools for Sharks Program Overview

Sharks are the top predators in our oceans and they play an important role in keeping our oceans healthy. However, sharks are often painted in a negative light in the media and there are a lot of misconceptions surrounding sharks. Alarming, shark populations in Australia and around the world are being decimated by protective drumlines, shark finning and habitat destruction and sharks need our help! Through education, research and conservation, we are on a mission to help protect sharks in Australia and around the world.

“Schools for Sharks” is a 10-week program run by the Jervis Bay Marine Discovery and Research Centre (JBMDRC) in Term 3 with schools in the Jervis Bay area. It aims to take students and teachers on a journey of discovery about sharks and gives students the opportunity to participate in shark research and activism work. Each week, a presenter from the Jervis Bay Marine Discovery and Research Centre will present lessons aligned with NESA outcomes from the Science, Geography, English, Mathematics and Creative Arts syllabuses.

Throughout the ‘Schools for Sharks’ program, students will:

- Discover the diversity and features of different shark species.
- Brainstorm solutions to key threatening processes for sharks.
- Conduct research and write an information report on a temperate species of shark
- Write persuasive texts to governments, businesses in the commercial sector and public aquariums.
- Create artworks and digital media for public education and/or the conservation of sharks.
- Participate in a ‘Schools for Sharks’ field day and collaborate with scientists in the field.
- Prepare and present presentations as a part of the final presentation week of the project.

Program History

The ‘Schools for Sharks’ program has been developed from presentations that we have done for schools in the Sydney area and from an initiative run by Taronga Zoo called “Project Shark”. Students. and. “Project Shark” consisted of an excursion to Taronga Zoo in Sydney and a habitat day in Jervis Bay. The project ran for 2015 and 2016 and was loved by students and parents alike.

Weekly Schedule

The following schedule breaks down the lessons and activities for each week of the program. There is some flexibility on the order of lessons (with the exception of the Field Day excursion and Presentation Week). Also, there are suggested assessments and assessment weightings for each week if teachers choose to assess student competency throughout the program.

Week Number	Lesson
1	Information Session - Introduction to sharks Suggested Assessment: No assessment
2	Project Week: Species information report Suggested Assessment: Information report assessment (5%)
3	Class Discussion - Research and conservation of sharks Suggested Assessment: Class participation (5%)
4	Project Week: Persuasive Letter Writing Suggested Assessment: Persuasive text assessment (5%)
5	Project Week: Shark Science Suggested Assessment: Shark Science Workbook (5%)
6	Online Information Session - Field Day Suggested Assessment: Notes from presentation (5%)
7	Excursion - Field Day Suggested Assessment: Fieldwork booklet (30%)
8	Project Week: Conservation and Education Artworks Suggested Assessment: Artworks assessment (5%)
9	Project Week: Independent Tasks* Suggested Assessment: Extra tasks (10%)
10	Presentation Week Suggested Assessment: Presentations (30%)

Contact us at excursions@jbmdrc.org.au if you are interested in participating in the 'School for Sharks' Program.