



Shark Teeth Adaptations



In this exploration, your job is to closely observe your collection of shark teeth fossils. Each of you should look carefully at each tooth and note how similar and different they look from each other. After observing each tooth, you should then separate them into groups based on some feature (characteristic) that you think is important. Along with shark teeth, your example may contain fragments of manta ray crusher plate, sting ray barbs, and even a shark vertebrae. While these are worth observing, we are going to focus primarily on teeth in this activity.

After separating the teeth into groups, you should

- 1) Name the groups in an informative way.
- 2) Draw a representative (typical) example of a tooth from that group
- 3) Explain how you think the shape of the tooth is adapted to help the shark survive.
- 4) Measure the length of the longest tooth in each group in inches
- 5) Calculate the approximate size of the biggest from each group (by multiplying each measurement by 10).
- 6) Draw a table or graph to illustrate your results

Groups of Teeth:

Name of Group	Sketch of Tooth	Length of Tooth (inches)	Estimated Length of Shark (feet)	How is tooth adapted?

On the back, draw a graph to illustrate your results or graph your results electronically and print them out.