

Nature Adventures

with NC's 4-H Camps

A virtual learning program for educators and families

Sharks Teeth & Fossils Discussion & Learning Guide

Directions: Follow along and look for answers to the questions below as you participate in the program. If you have others you are working with, answer the questions together.

- 1) What is a fossil? Then, please list and describe one type of fossil. **A fossil is the remains of a prehistoric organism (plant or animal) that is preserved in rock. The types of fossils discussed in the program include: mold, cast, trace fossils, and petrified fossils.**
- 2) What type of fossil are sharks' teeth? **Sharks teeth are petrified fossils.**
- 3) Why are sharks teeth the most abundant fossil on Earth? **Sharks have many rows of teeth and during different stages of their lives, they can have up to 300 teeth. As they lose their teeth, they provide abundant resources for fossilization.**
- 4) Approximately how many years does it take for a shark's tooth to fossilize? **10,000 years**
- 5) What are the sharp, rigid edges of a shark's tooth called? What do these help a shark do? **These sharp edges are called *serrations* or *serrated teeth* and they help a shark to tear the flesh of their prey, their first step in their digestive process.**
- 6) What is the largest shark species to ever exist? **The Megalodon shark. The Megalodon is estimated to have been 60-70 feet in length, and weigh up to 50 to 70 tons.**
- 7) What is the current fastest shark species? **The Mako shark. The Mako can travel up to speeds of 35 miles per hour.**