

Shark Storytellers

OBJECTIVES

Students demonstrate all the steps in the writing process: prewriting, writing, responding, revising, and editing.

MATERIALS

- reference materials on sharks (*see page 24*)
- writing paper
- pens or pencils

ACTION

1. Each student will create and write a short story based on “a day in the life of a shark.” As a prewriting activity, discuss shark behavior, senses, conservation, and other topics. Use the information gathered from ***The Tooth Will Tell*** on page 18 and resources listed on page 24. Encourage students to use books and videos to get more ideas on what sharks do. Brainstorm a few possible outlines students might use to write their shark story. Can students think of more than one outline for telling the same story?
2. Students write their own short stories about a day in the life of a shark.
3. Divide the class into small response groups of two to five students. Students read their stories aloud or exchange papers. They give each other feedback on their work.
4. Next, students revise their stories. In this process they can rethink and reorganize their stories, changing as much as they want.
5. Explain to students that authors edit their writing before they submit it to a publisher. As student authors, they now have the chance to edit their own stories. Make dictionaries and other reference books available. You may wish to help students develop a checklist for editing their stories. (*Examples of checklist items: spelling, page numbers, name on report, etc.*)
6. Make a book out of the stories. Read the stories to the class.



Can students imagine a day in the life of a great white shark?

DEEPER DEPTHS

Check the Internet and collect cartoons, books, and newspaper and magazine articles about sharks. Students use their knowledge of sharks to analyze and critique the way the information is presented.

Bibliography

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Books for Young Readers

- Arnold, Caroline. *Watch Out For Sharks!* New York: Clarion Books, 1991.
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- Pope, Joyce. *Pockets. Sharks*. New York: DK Publishing, Inc., 1997.
- Spinelli, Eileen. *Sharks*. Illinois: Children's Nature Library Publications International, 1991.

Shamu TV® on Video*

Shark! 1999; *Predator Alert*, 1999; *Myth, Monster or Misunderstood?* 1999.

SeaWorld Posters*

Inside Sharks, 1989; *Sharks and Other Cartilaginous Creatures*, 1994; *Great White Shark*, 1999.

Web Sites

- Marine life information from SeaWorld. <www.seaworld.org>
- American Elasmobranch Society. <www.elasmo.org>
- Center For Marine Conservation, Shark Fact Sheet. <www.cmc-ocean.org/2_bp/sharkfact.html>

*Available through SeaWorld San Diego. Call for prices.