



Spud Sharks

Grades 2-5

CA State Standards:

Science: 2nd: 2d, 3rd: 3a

Writing:

2nd: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 3rd: 1.1a, 1.1b, 1.3

4th: 1.2, 1.7, 2.3a, 2.3b, 2.3c.

5th: 1.3, 2.3a, 2.3b, 2.3c

Background:

Most sharks have a streamlined fusiform, football-like, body shape that allows them to move easily through the water. Each of the shark's fins has a function that further aids its ability to swim. The tail or caudal fin provides forward movement for the shark. Pectoral fins allow the shark to steer and also provide lift. The dorsal fin, along with the anal and pelvic fins, provides stability

Materials:

Potatoes

Toothpicks

Construction paper

Glue

Scissors

Googlie Eyes

Plastic Knives

Pencils

Procedure:

1. Distribute materials to groups of students.
2. Cut a mouth out at one end of the potato using a plastic knife.
3. Fold construction paper in half and draw a dorsal, caudal, anal, and pelvic fin, along with two pectoral fins. Cut out all the fins.
4. Spread glue onto the edges of one fin of each fin set. Lay a toothpick down the middle of the fin that has glue and press both fins together so that some of the toothpick is exposed.
5. Poke the fins into the potato in the correct shark fin positions.
6. Glue on the googlie eyes.
7. Discuss the functionality of the body shape and fins of the shark.

Learning Extensions

1. Research different species of sharks that have different body and fin shapes. Determine how the different body shapes aid various species of shark. Have students write reports and present them to the class.
2. Investigate the issues of shark finning. What is the purpose of shark finning? How does shark finning impact various shark populations? What has the U.S. government done about shark finning?

