

ACADEMY VIRTUAL FESTIVAL PALEOPALOOZA

A Nine-Day Festival of Fossils

October 17–25

Shark Tooth Identification

Some of the easiest and most plentiful fossils to find are shark teeth. Sharks continually shed their teeth. Some sharks shed approximately 35,000 teeth in a lifetime, replacing those that fall out. Tooth shape depends on the shark's diet. Some sharks have dense and flattened teeth used for crushing, needle-like teeth for gripping or pointed lower teeth for gripping and triangular upper teeth with serrated edges for cutting. Can you identify these shark teeth?

Know before you begin

- This activity can be done inside or outside
- Adult supervision is recommended
- Please choose a safe space to play

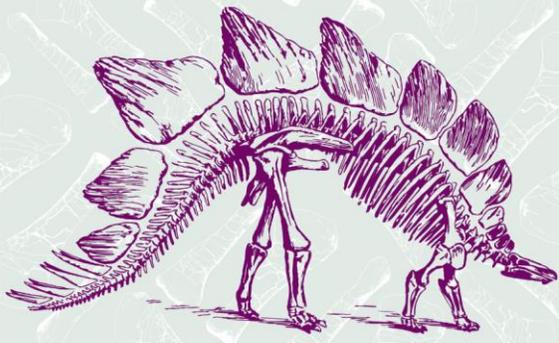
Materials

- Shark teeth or shark teeth pictures
- Your own brain

Instructions

Take a look at shark teeth you have at your own home or use the shark teeth pictures provided to identify these shark teeth.

1. Is your tooth triangular?
Yes. Continue to next question.
No. You have a crushing pallet from sting ray.
2. Is your tooth flattened?
Yes. Continue to next question.
No. If the tooth is cone shaped it might be from a crocodilian.
3. Is your tooth straight or bent?
Straight. Go to next question.
Bent. Go to question 5.
4. Is your tooth serrated on the edges?
Yes. You have a tooth from an ancient relative of a great white shark.
No. You have a tooth from an ancient relative of a mako shark.
5. Does your tooth have denticles on the root?
Yes. You have a tooth from an ancient relative of a sand shark.
No. You have a tooth from an ancient relative of a snaggletooth shark.



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