

# Lesson Plan

## Grades 4-5

### Reef Sharks!



**HCPS**

**Benchmarks SC.1.5.2, LA.2.4.1, SC.4.3.2**



**Created by Maui Digital Bus**



# Reef Sharks!

## **STANDARDS: HCPS**

### **Topic**

#### **Benchmark SCI 1.5.2**

**Describe the physical characteristics of living things that enable them to live in their environment**

#### **Benchmark LA 2.4.1**

**Write in a variety of grade-appropriate formats for a variety of purposes and audiences, such as:**

- **brief narratives with logical sequencing and some detail**
- **simple explanations of an event or circumstance**

#### **Benchmark SC.4.3.2**

**Describe how an organism's behavior is determined by its environment**

### **SUMMARY / OBJECTIVES:**

**Students will research information about sharks in the Open Ocean Exhibit.**

**FOCUS AREA: Animal behaviors**



**DURATION: 1 hour**

**MATERIALS: worksheets, pencils and clipboards**



**BACKGROUND:**

Black Tip Reef sharks are grey with a black tip on its dorsal fin and white underneath. Sharks are at the top of the food chain. Their diet consists of crustaceans, squid, octopus and bony fish. Their only enemies are humans, larger sharks and killer whales. They have a highly developed system of senses. They locate prey through hearing, then hone in using their sense of smell and sight. In Hawaii, this species can be seen very close to the coastline and coral reef edge. They are social, swim slowly and are constantly aware of their surroundings.

**ACTIVITY:**

Each student will visit the Open Ocean exhibit where they will observe the Black Tip reef sharks. They will be instructed to observe the shark's behavior, as well as to read any information exhibited on the walls. They will be given a worksheet of questions to answer based on information they find within the exhibit. They can find the answers to the questions by observation, reading information and asking a naturalist or Maui Ocean Center employee.

**ASSESSMENT:**

Completed worksheet

**EXTENSIONS:**

Have students complete a more in-depth research report on sharks.  
Have students complete the same questionnaire on Tiger sharks.  
Have students compare Tiger Sharks to Reef Sharks.

**REFERENCES:**

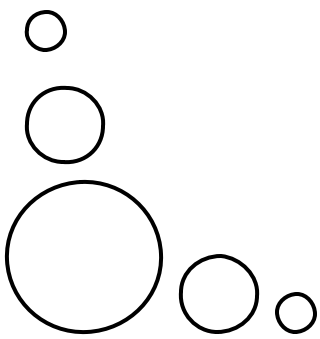
Shedd Aquarium

[http://www.sheddaquarium.org/sea/teacher\\_backgrounder.cfm](http://www.sheddaquarium.org/sea/teacher_backgrounder.cfm)

Hawaii's Sharks

[www.hawaiiisharks.com](http://www.hawaiiisharks.com)

Sharks and Rays of Hawaii, Gerald W. Crow and Jennifer Crites, Mutual Publishing, 2004.



## Black Tip Reef Shark

- Size:
- Physical characteristics:
- What is its habitat?
- What is its prey (Do other fish eat it)? (if yes, list predators)
- Is it a predator (Does it eat other fish)? (if yes, list prey)
- Is it both prey and predator?
- How does it locate its prey?
- Does it swim fast or slow?
- Fun facts:

**Draw the shark in its habitat in the box below.**