



**Short Activity**  
**Ages 3–5**  
**15-20 minutes**

## **Hungry Shark!**

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### **Description**

Participants create their own spinning shark crafts and talk about what animals might eat and why

### **Number of participants**

For any number of participants

### **Space considerations**

A flat surface for participants to cut, colour and glue

### **Competencies**

- Listening and comprehension
- Logical thinking
- Creative thinking and storytelling
- Fine motor skills

### **Materials**

- Two paper cups of a similar size (one must be able to fit into the other)
- Various small stickers (flat 0.5-1" stickers work best)
- Scissors or Exacto knife (for staff use only)
- Crayons, pencil crayons or other colouring supplies
- Glue (sticks or liquid glue with craft sticks)
- Clear tape (optional)

### **Preparation**

Consider precutting the cups for young participants, or encourage caregivers to support the process.

- Hold a shark image against the cup you will be cutting. Tape this in place temporarily if needed. This will give you a sense of where to start tracing your “window” to be cut.

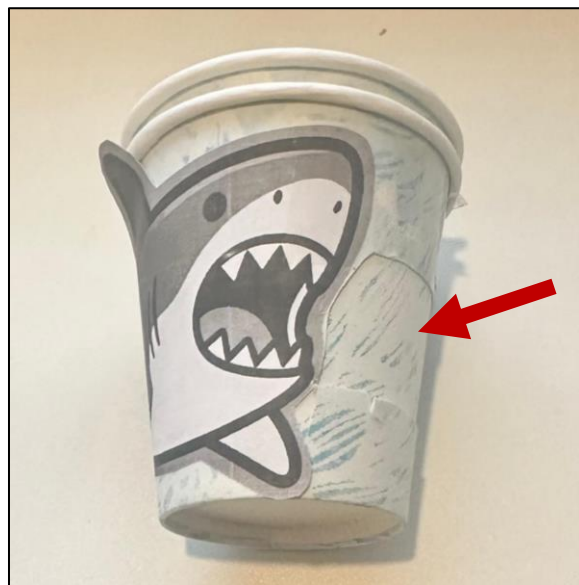


- Cut the window with an Exacto knife or poke a hole with your scissors to start cutting. It doesn't have to be perfect but try to keep the edges smooth to avoid paper cuts. If needed, the edges can be taped down slightly to smooth them out.



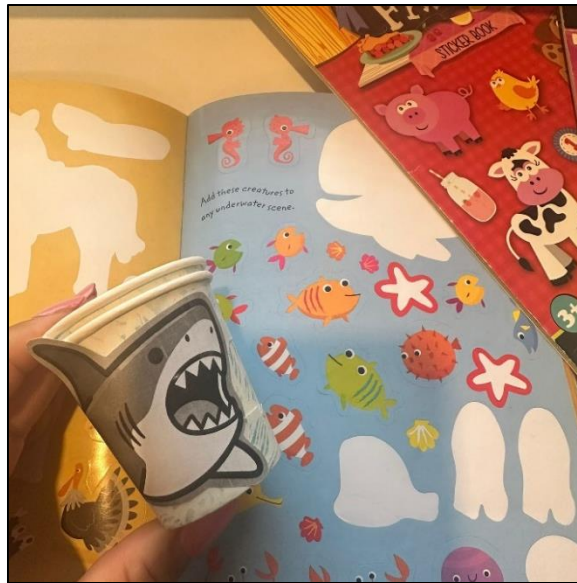
## Implementation

1. Distribute all materials: paper cups, shark illustrations, colouring and pasting supplies and scissors (if needed).
2. Each participant receives two paper cups: one with a window cut in it and one left as is. If participants will be doing the cutting, be sure to supply child-safe scissors and pencils at this point and follow the instructions from the **Preparation** section.
3. Have participants insert the unaltered cup into the cup with a window and spin it to see how it moves. This will also expose the areas of the inner cup that will show through the window.



4. Participants will colour and cut out a shark from the shark template provided (or draw a shark or other creature of their own choosing).
5. Participants will paste the shark onto the outer cup, lining up the mouth as much as possible with the window. Remind them that it doesn't have to be perfectly aligned—just close enough for the shark to gobble everything up!
6. Using the exposed space from the inner cup as a guide, have participants decorate the inner cup with stickers of items that the shark might "eat." Any small stickers will work. Stickers should be small enough to fit in the window,

but it is okay if they extend a little beyond it. This is a great opportunity to use up small leftover stickers from other programs!



Alternatively, participants can simply draw or colour items into the exposed cup space or do a combination of both.

Use guiding questions to get participants thinking about what sharks might eat. Encourage silly answers!

Example: "What do you think a shark might want to eat today?"

- a. A pizza?
- b. Smaller fish? What about a can of sardines?
- c. A person? YIKES!
- d. A school bus?"

"What other animals also eat these same things? Do they live in the ocean too? Where might you find them?" Point out patterns where you can: "Wow! Looks like sharks might eat pizza, people eat pizza and seagulls eat pizza too!"

If time and the audience support it, consider having participants share what they chose to include in their shark's buffet and why.

7. Participants can spin the inner cup to make it look like their shark is eating the stickers.



## Accessibility considerations

- Use two cups that are the same size but with different colours or prints. This makes it easier to identify the exposed space of the inner cup
- Use a slightly smaller inner cup to allow easier spinning
- Offer large glue sticks or liquid glue in small containers with craft sticks
- Offer a variety of stickers, including high-contrast or shiny stickers
- Puff paint can be used to paint around the shark image (and on the cup) to add an additional tactile element.
  - Avoid puff paint on the inner cup as it will make it difficult to spin
- Precut items where appropriate, but gauge your audience. It's tempting to precut everything, but allow kids to practise cutting where they can and offer ergonomic scissors if possible

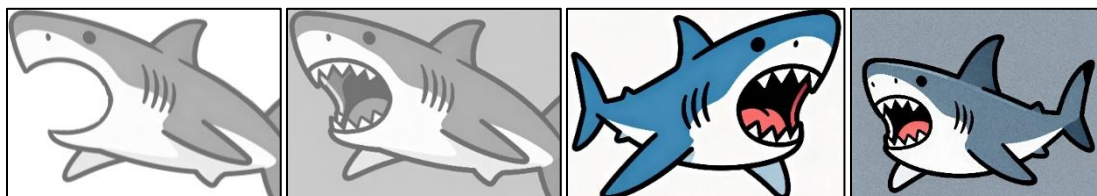
## Book suggestions

- *Everything You Know About Sharks Is Wrong!* by Dr. Nick Crumpton and Gavin Scott
- *Shark Girl* by Kate Beaton
- *Harvey Hammer: Super-Duper Hero Blooper* by Davy Ocean and Aaron Blecha

## Download links

- [Hungry Shark – Activity PDF](#)
- [Hungry Shark – Illustration template](#)

## Images



# Hungry Shark!

## Illustration Templates

Images can be sized up or down to best fit your cup.  
Current size (~3") works for smaller 2" bathroom cups as well as larger standard sized paper cups. Parts of the fins may extend beyond the tops of smaller cups.

