

# EDUCATION CORNER

## SHARKS IN OUR ESTUARY



There are over a dozen species of sharks that swim in the waters of Tampa Bay. Though sharks are considered primarily marine animals, they are still found in brackish, estuarine waters. Like many other animals sharks use the estuary environment as a place to have their young. Young sharks are protected within the various habitats of the estuary and have an abundant supply of food. Some of the most common sharks found in our estuary are blacktip, bonnethead, bull, hammerhead, and spinner sharks.

### FIN FACTS

**30 TH.**

Sharks continually replace their teeth. Some sharks have over 30,000 teeth in their lifetime.

**46 MPH**

The shortfin mako is the fastest shark clocking in at bursts of speeds of 46 miles per hour.

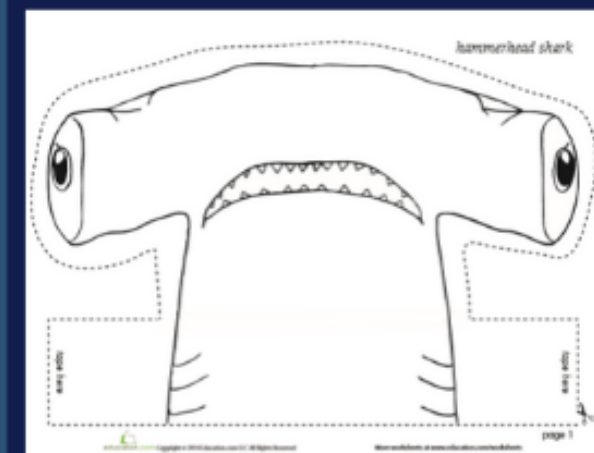
**60 FT**

The whale shark, the world's largest shark, has been known to reach lengths of 60 feet.

#### AT HOME ACTIVITY

### HAMMERHEAD HEADBAND

1. With an adults help, print the hammerhead shark headband.
2. Decorate your shark!
3. With help, cut out the shark head and the two head band straps.
4. Make your headband by taping the two strips of paper to the sides of the shark head cut out.
5. Tape together the two headband straps, adjust to fit around your head.
6. 7. Wear and enjoy!



SOURCE: COAST.NOAA.GOV,  
DEFENDERS.ORG, EDIS.IFAS.UFL.EDU,  
ELASMORESEARCH.ORG  
MYFWC.COM, OCEAN.SI.EDU

ACTIVITY SOURCE: EDUCATION.COM