

Paper Plate Shark Jaw

Activity Length

15 minutes

Supplies

- Paper plate
- Markers
- Scissors

Procedure

1. Fold your paper plate in half, with the bottom of the plate facing you and folding the edges towards yourself.
2. Draw the outline of the shark jaw with the markers by drawing a swoopy “m” shape on the top half. Draw a mirror image of the swoop on the bottom half and use the scissors to trim away the outer edges of the plate.
3. Fold the plate in half again. Cut a semi oval shape out of the center on the fold (when you open the plate, it will be a whole oval).
4. Cut jagged triangles along the edges of the circle for teeth.
5. Unfold the paper plate to reveal your shark jaws!



Science

Because shark skeletons are made out of cartilage, they often break down quickly after the shark passes away. This is one reason why shark skeleton fossils are so rare. The shark's teeth and jaw are more similar to our teeth and bones and contain a lot of calcium, which makes them hard. Because of this, many of the ancient shark remains scientists find are teeth.