



Investigating Sharks



Name _____ Date _____

Scientists like to study animals in their natural habitat. That means that a shark scientist has to study sharks in the oceans where they live. Shark scientists are scuba divers who go deep into the ocean to learn more about sharks.

Read and discuss "Facts About Sharks" by Susanna Batchelor. Think about how these two types of sharks are the same and also how they are different.

Which shark would you study if you were a shark scientist and why?

1. Decide which shark you would want to study.
2. Find the best shark facts to support your reasons.
3. Explain your reasons. Be sure to use facts about hammerhead sharks and whale sharks to explain why you would study the shark you chose and not the other shark.

You can use a graphic organizer to help you plan your writing.

Remember to pick the best facts to support your opinion, and not every detail you can find. You must explain how the facts support your opinion and each of your reasons.

Be sure to

- Have an introduction that tells the topic and focus (opinion).
- State your opinion: If I was a shark scientist, I would want to study (which shark) because (reasons).
- Have body paragraphs with topic sentences and details to support each new reason. Group your facts to support and explain each reason.
- Use linking words that connect your opinion with your reasons and facts.
- Use descriptive words to connect your ideas.
- Write a conclusion that connects to your focus (opinion) and reasons.
- Use different kinds of sentences—statements, questions, and exclamations to add interest.
- Use complete sentences. Check for correct punctuation and spelling.
- Add an illustration that supports your focus (opinion).



Available for download at resources.corwin.com/HessToolkit

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Planning Your Writing

Use information from “Facts About Sharks” in your opinion piece. Pick some facts that will help you to compare the two kinds of sharks and then decide which shark you would want to study. You may also add new facts you have learned from other texts or sources on the Internet. Deciding and listing the reasons for your opinion (the shark you want to study) is an important step in your plan. A silly reason is given in the table to show you how to connect your reasons with your opinion and facts.

My opinion (the shark I would want to study or learn more about) is

Because (my reasons for choosing this shark): _____

List <u>at least 2 Strong</u> Reasons why you choose	<u>Explain</u> Hammerhead shark facts that support my reason	<u>Explain</u> Whale shark facts that support my reason
I like spots! (a silly reason—DO NOT use this reason)	Hammerhead sharks do not have spots so they would be boring to study.	Whale sharks do have spots and I want to know more about animals with spots.



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