Shark Diet Memory Match

Materials:
- Matching cards (print and cut out)
  - 18 cards total (9 pairs)

Learning level:
- K-12

Duration:
- Variable ~15 minutes

Vocabulary:
- Whale shark, Basking shark, White shark, Tiger shark, Hammerhead shark, Blue shark, Zebra Bullhead shark, Bonnethead shark, Coral Catshark, cephalofoil

Background info:
- For this activity participants will be learning about various shark species and their diets. Currently there are about 500 known species of shark in the world. The following are just a few species we will be focusing on for this activity.
- **Whale Sharks** are the largest fish in the sea, reaching lengths of 40 feet or more. They are found in tropical waters worldwide. These sharks are filter feeders which means they open their mouths wide and feed on plankton and small fish that happen to be nearby.
- **Basking Sharks** are the second largest fish in the world and can reach lengths of 40 feet. They are found worldwide in warm to cold temperate waters. These sharks are also filter feeders like the whale shark and feed on plankton.
- **White Sharks**, also known as Great White Sharks, are a top predator in the ocean. They have strong muscles and massive jaws. They can grow up to 21 feet in length and are found mostly in temperate coastal waters. These sharks are known to eat large prey such as sea lions and seals.
- **Tiger Sharks** are large predators with powerful jaws. They can grow up to 25 feet in length and are found in sub-tropical to topical waters worldwide. These sharks are known for eating anything they can capture. They will commonly eat sea turtles and seals.
- **Hammerhead Sharks** have flattened shovel-shaped heads called cephalofoils. They can grow up to 20 feet in length and are found in temperate to tropical waters worldwide. These sharks love to eat stingrays.
- **Blue Sharks** are open-ocean predators that may reach lengths of 10 feet. They are found worldwide in tropical to cold temperate waters. These sharks love to eat squid and will also eat small fish.
- **Zebra Bullhead Sharks** are bottom dwelling sharks that may reach a length of up to 4 feet. They are commonly found in tropical to subtropical waters. These sharks love to eat bottom dwelling invertebrates, such as clams and shrimp.
- **Bonnhead Sharks** are the smallest of the ten hammerhead shark species, reaching a maximum size of 5 feet. They are commonly found in temperate to subtropical waters. These sharks love to eat shrimp, small fish, and are also known to eat sea grasses.
- **Coral Catsharks** are small, slender sharks that grow to be about 2 feet long. They live on shallow coral reefs across the Indo-West Pacific. These sharks love to eat small, bottom-dwelling invertebrates, such as shrimp and crabs.
Procedure:
• Before starting this activity you will want to print and cut the matching cards.
• Have participants read through the background section about the sharks we will be learning about today, or you can read it out loud to them.
• Shuffle the matching cards and spread them out placed upside-down on a flat surface.
• Activity can be played with a partner or solo.
• Have players flip one pair of cards over at a time and see if they match!
• If they are not a match flip the cards upside-down again and let the next player have a turn.
• Switch between players each turn.
• The goal is to match the shark to the food they eat. (Answer key at the bottom of the activity)
• Use your memory to try and remember where the matching cards might be.
• Player with the most pairs wins!
• Share with us on Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter @neaq

Extensions and Variations:
• For younger players the cards can be placed facing up.
• For a solo game, players can time themselves to see how fast they can make matches.
• Allow players to justify their matches using the information provided in the background section.
• You can make more matching cards on your own by researching other shark species and discovering what they like to eat.

Memory Match Cards

Whale Shark

Plankton, Small Fish
Basking Shark

Plankton

White Shark

Sea Lions, Seals

Tiger Shark

Sea Turtles, Seals
Hammerhead Shark

Stingrays

Blue Shark

Squid, Small Fish

Zebra Bullhead Shark

Clams, Shrimp
Answer Key

- Whale shark eats plankton and small fish.
- Basking shark eats plankton.
- White shark eats sea lions and seals.
- Tiger shark eats sea turtles and seals.
- Hammerhead shark eats stingrays.
- Blue shark eats squid and small fish.
- Zebra bullhead shark eats clams and shrimp.
- Bonnethead shark eats shrimp, small fish, and sea grasses.
- Coral catshark eats shrimp and crabs.