

# Sharks and Stingrays Share a Space

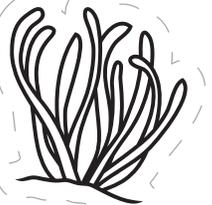
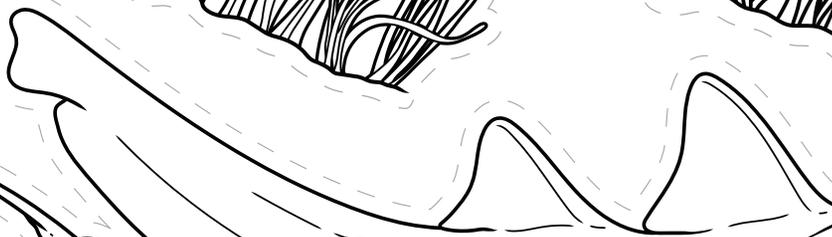
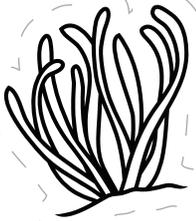
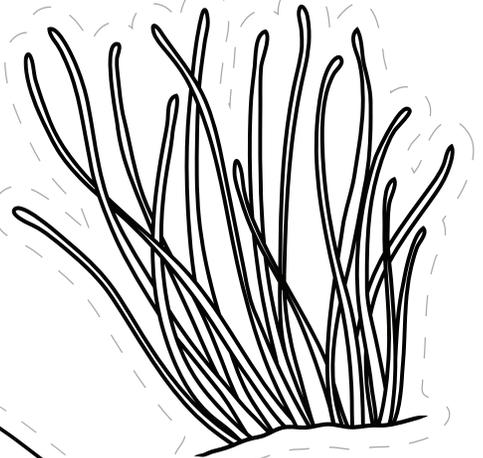
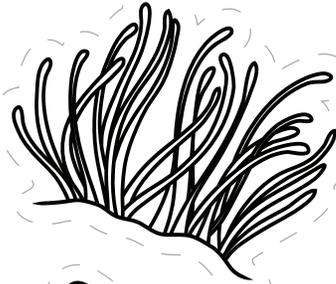
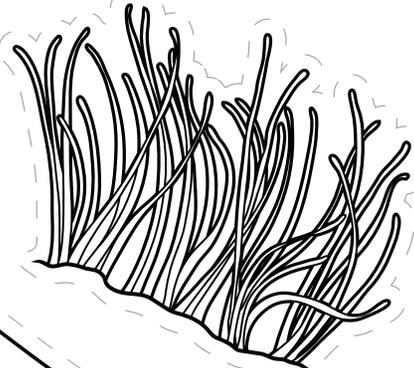
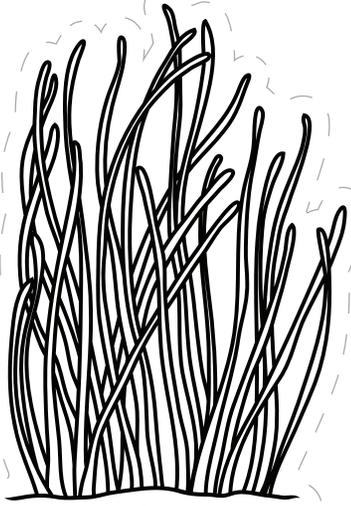
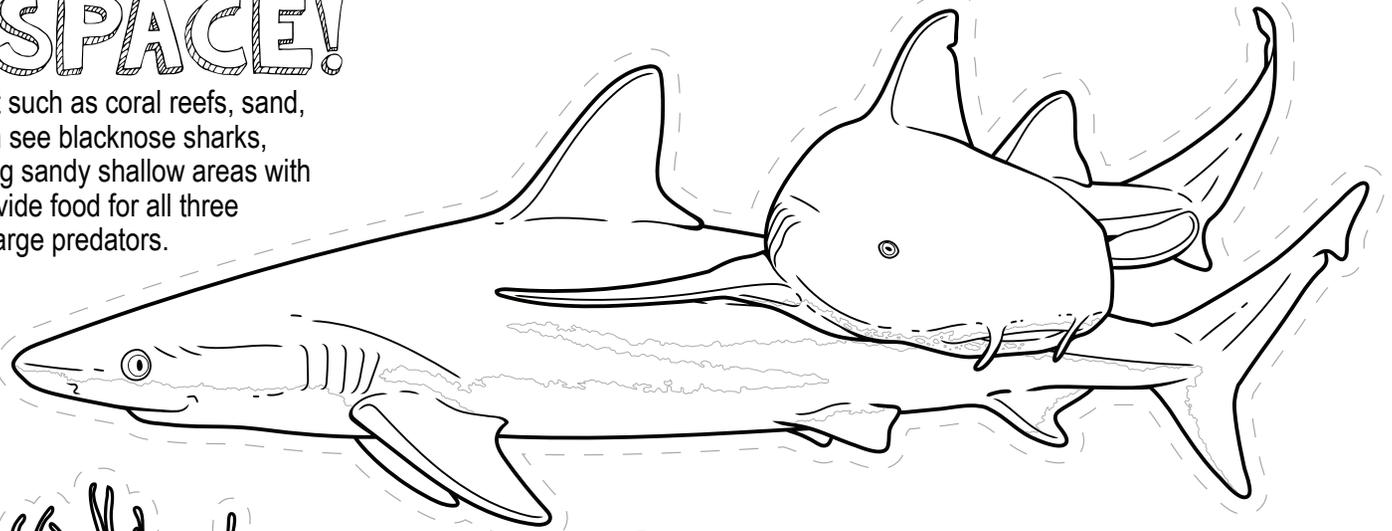
Written by Sharks4Kids with illustrations by Sharktopia

Artwork created from photos  
taken by Jillian Morris



# SHARING SPACE!

Sharks and rays can share the same habitat such as coral reefs, sand, or seagrass beds. In The Bahamas, you can see blacknose sharks, nurse sharks and southern stingrays all using sandy shallow areas with a seagrass edge. Both of these habitats provide food for all three species and the shallow depths mean less large predators.



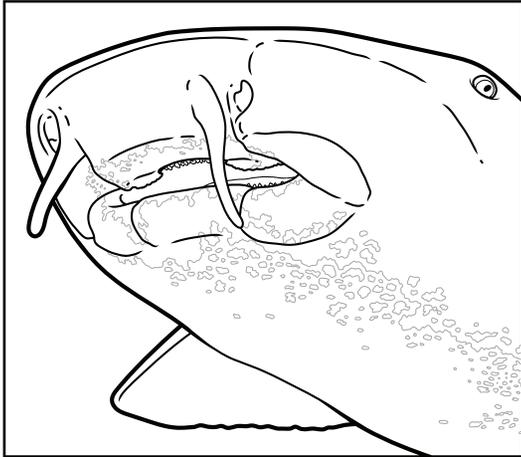
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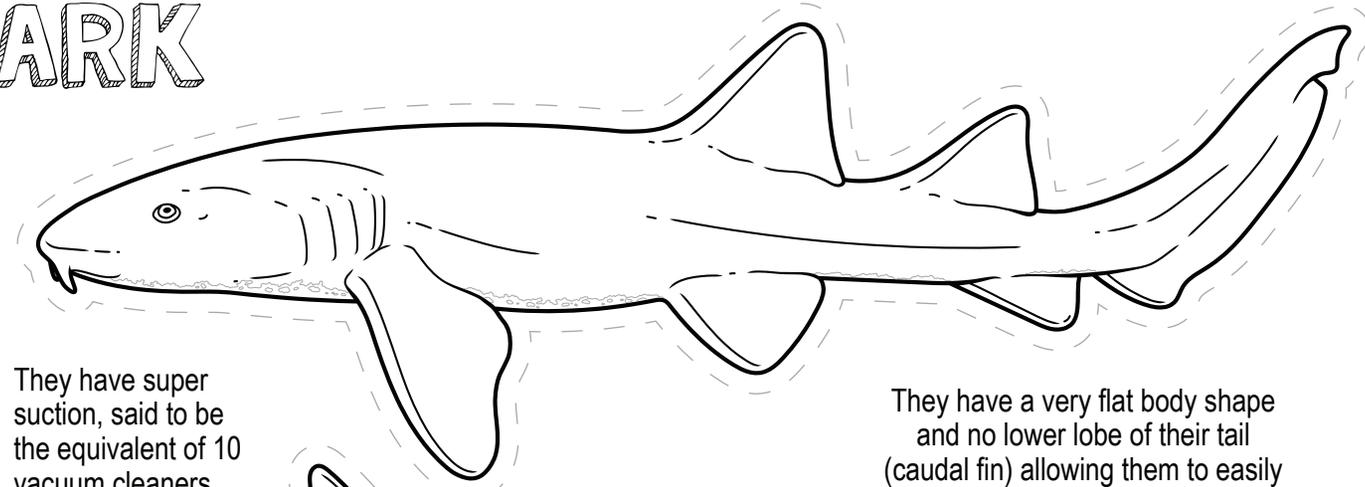
# NURSE SHARK

Scientific name: *Ginglymostoma cirratum*

Listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List.

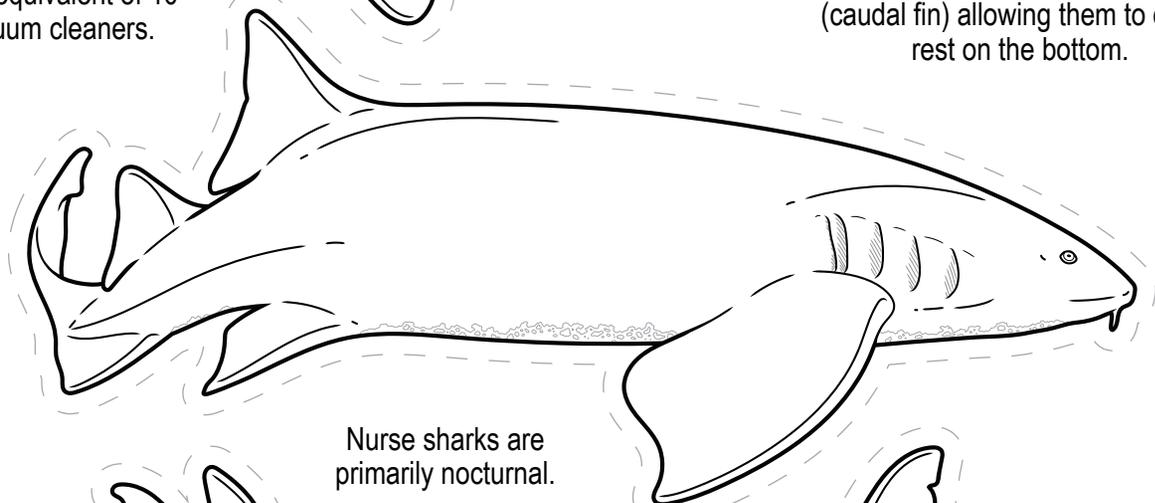


They have two barbels (sensory organs) that dangle near their mouth. These barbels help them locate prey on the seafloor.



They have super suction, said to be the equivalent of 10 vacuum cleaners.

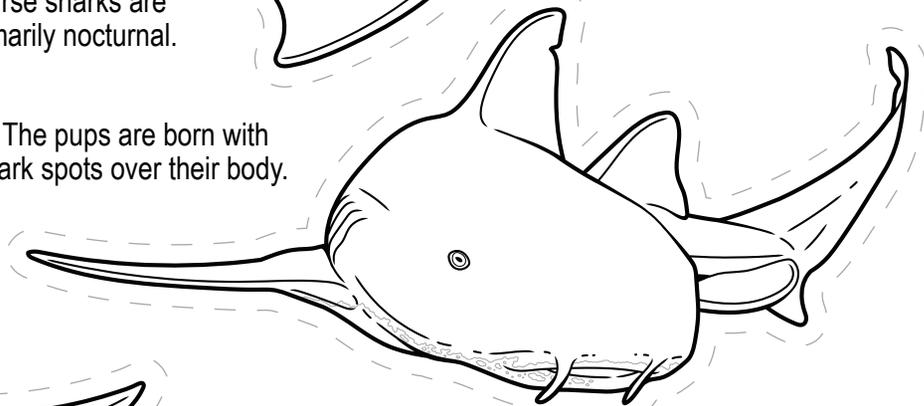
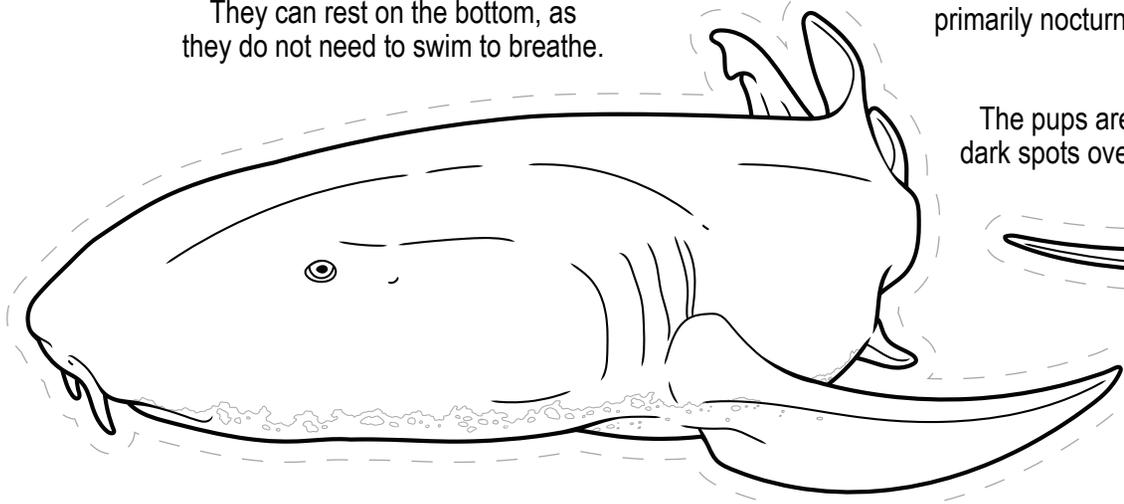
They have a very flat body shape and no lower lobe of their tail (caudal fin) allowing them to easily rest on the bottom.



Nurse sharks are primarily nocturnal.

They can rest on the bottom, as they do not need to swim to breathe.

The pups are born with dark spots over their body.



Artwork created from photos taken by Jillian Morris



# BLACKNOSE SHARK

Scientific name: *Carcharhinus acronotus*

Listed as Endangered  
on the IUCN Red List.

Named for the black dot/smudge  
on the snout that often fades as  
they become adults.

They live  
approximately  
11-19 years.

They are viviparous  
(give birth to live young,  
yolk-sac placenta) with  
a litter size of 1-6 pups.

Blacknose sharks are a relatively small  
species and usually grow to be around  
3 to 4 feet (1 to 1.2 meters) in length.

Diet: They primarily feed  
on small fish, crustaceans,  
and mollusks.

Blacknose sharks are found in coastal  
tropical and warm temperate waters  
of the western Atlantic Ocean.

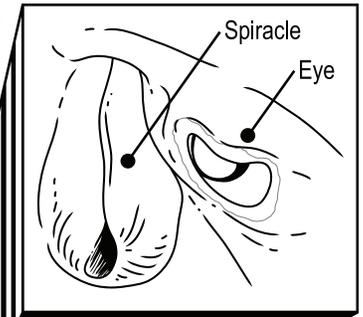
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# SOUTHERN STINGRAY

Scientific name: *Hypanus americanus*

Stingray spiracles are small, slit-like openings located behind the eyes on the upper surface of the stingray's body. The primary function of spiracles is to allow stingrays to draw in water and direct it to their gills for respiration. These spiracles allow stingrays to breathe efficiently while buried in sand or resting on the ocean floor.



Their tail, which can be up to twice as long as their bodies, possesses a serrated, venomous spine used for self-defense.

This bottom-dwelling species hunts for crustaceans and small fish by disturbing the sandy ocean floor to reveal prey. They also bury themselves in the substrate to hide from predators.

Diet: Shrimps, crabs, worms, small fish

Their pectoral fins, which propel them along the seafloor, can grow up to a total width of 79 inches (2 m).

The southern stingray is a coastal stingray found in the Northwest and Western Central Atlantic Oceans.

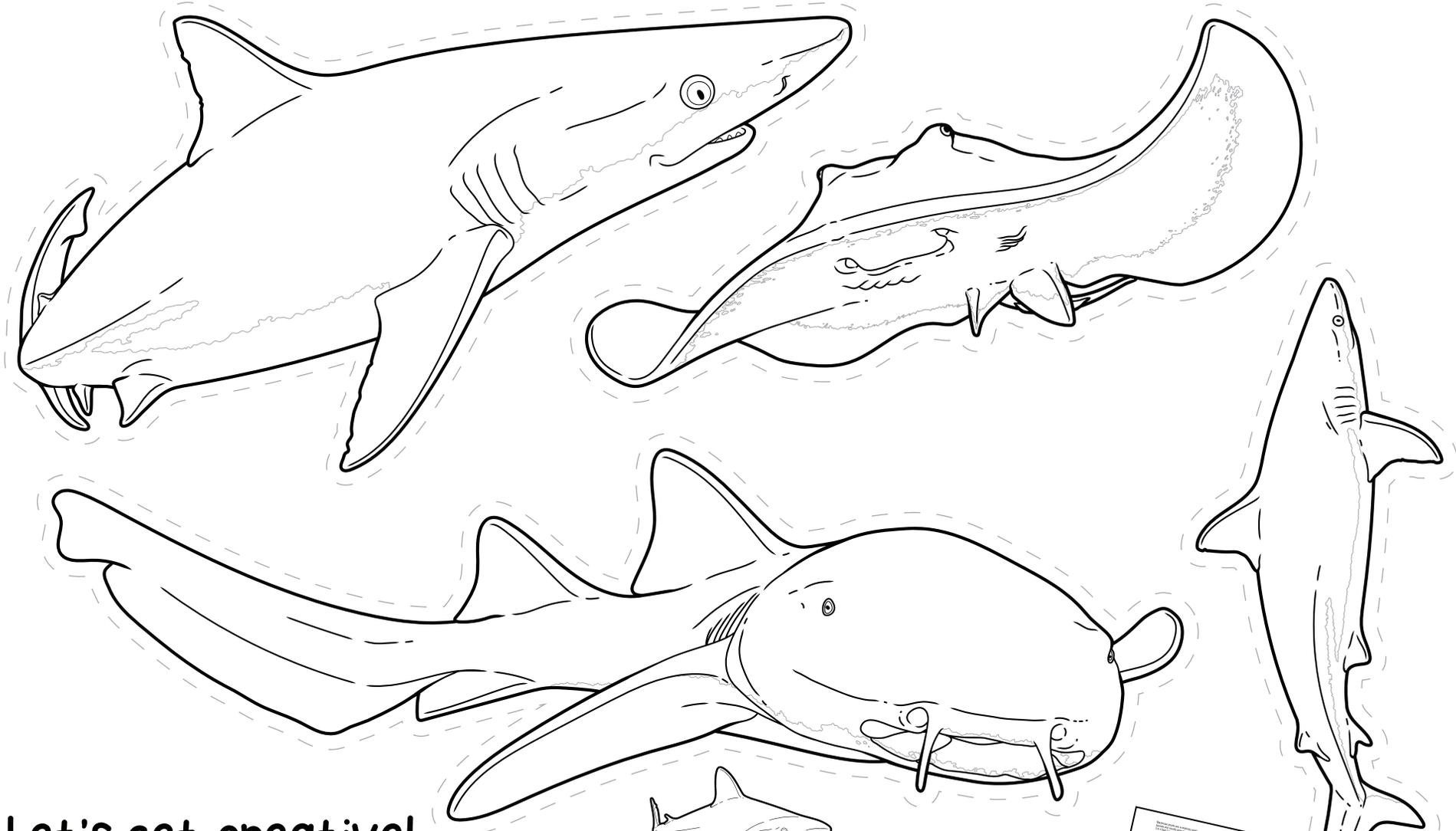
Listed as Near Threatened (NT) on the IUCN Red List (decreasing population).

Their flat teeth are used to crush shellfish. They spit out the shell fragments and ingest the soft body parts of the prey.



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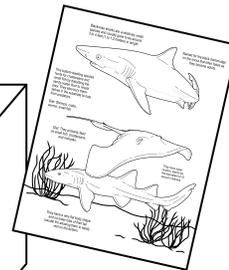
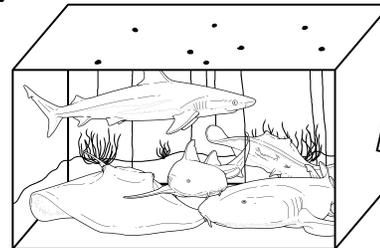
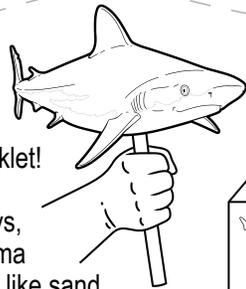




## Let's get creative!

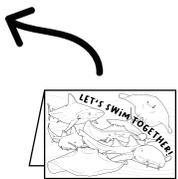
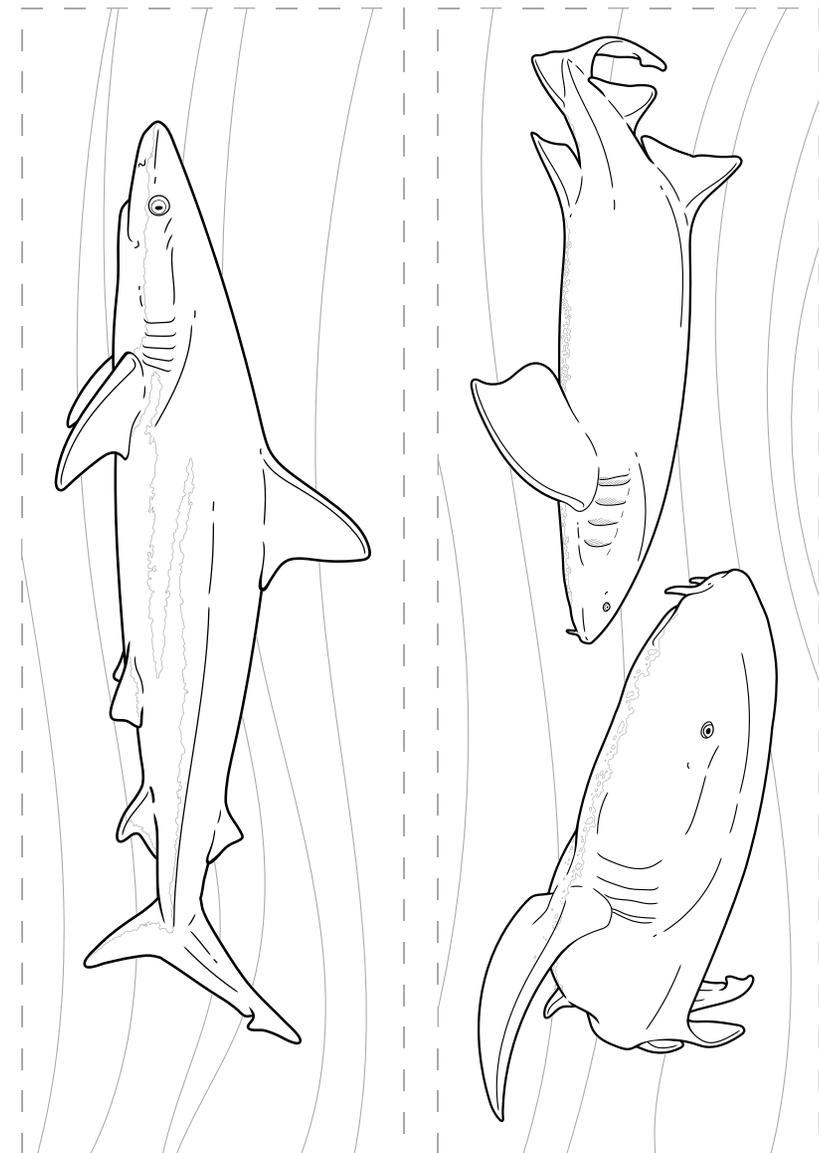
There are so many FINtastic things you can create with the cut outs in this booklet!

Ideas: Create puppets (cut along the dashed lines to cut out the sharks and rays, glue a stick to the back), use the sharks and rays as bookmarks, make a diorama using a box to create a scene with the sharks (you can paint the bottom to look like sand, include seagrass, and paint the background blue!), make an informative poster with the cut outs and include the facts, arrange the cut outs on a blank sheet of paper to create your own scene, etc! Share everything you learned with friends, family, classmates, etc! We hope you have fun with your creations!



Artwork created from photos taken by Jillian Morris

Color and cut out this group of friends to create a bookmark, ornament, etc.!



Color these FINTastic bookmarks and greeting card - cut along the dashed lines. Fold the card in half and give it to someone!

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