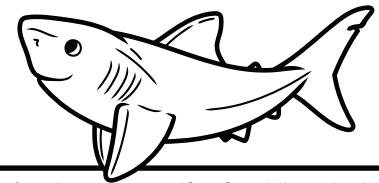


SHARK SMART

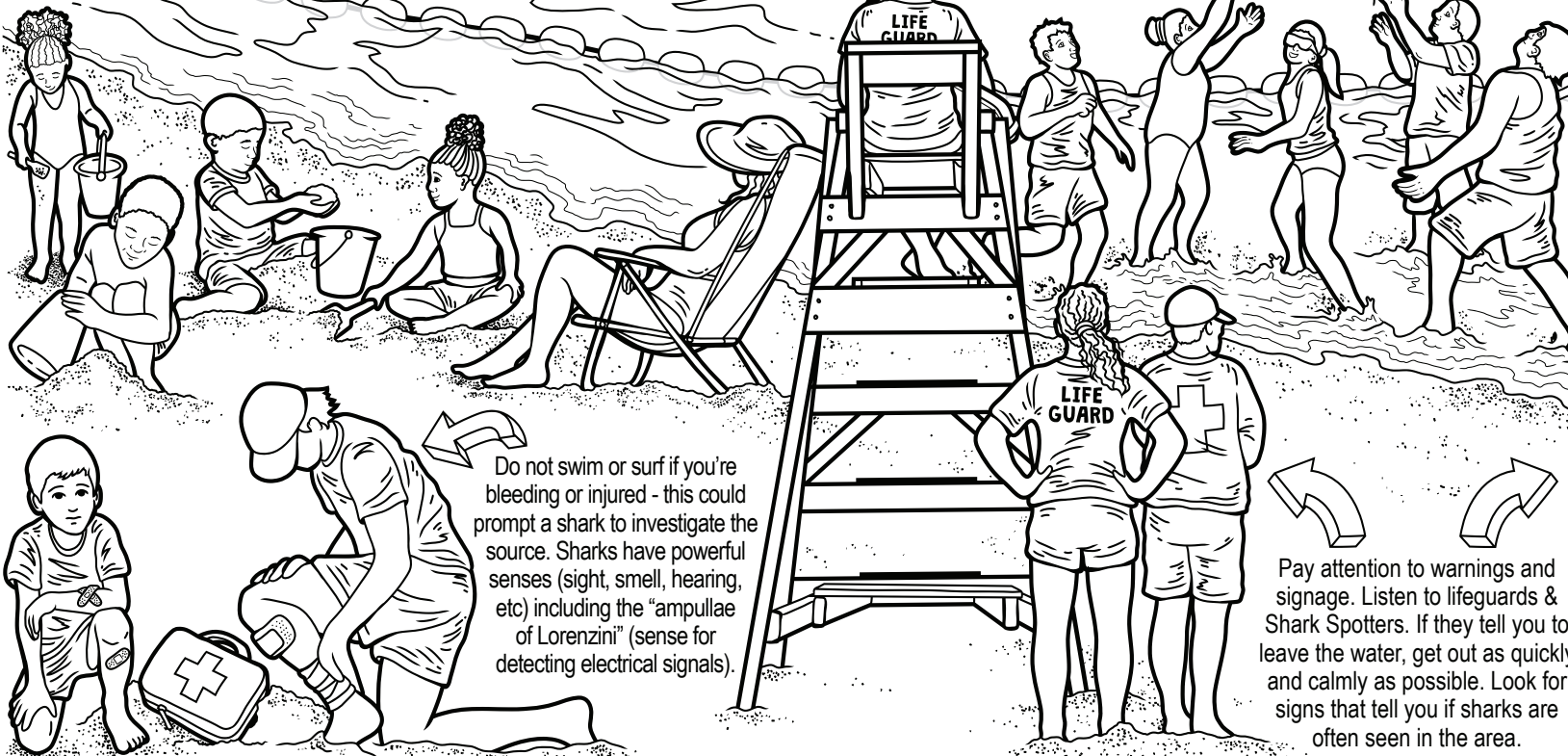


Incidents with sharks don't happen very often, but when they do it is bad for both people and sharks. Follow the safety tips below (and on the next page) to keep yourself safe while enjoying the ocean!

Swim or surf in a group, not alone. Groups of people are more intimidating to sharks - if you are on your own a shark might be more likely to investigate you. Also, if you need assistance there are people around to help you.



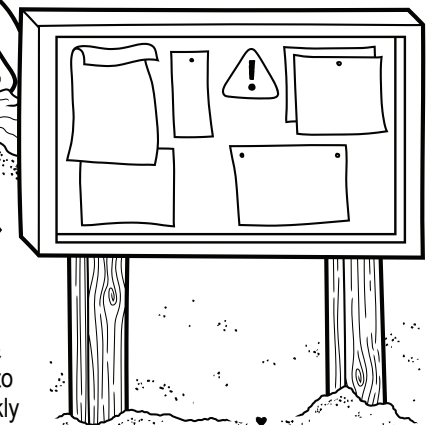
If possible use a beach that has Shark Spotters or other shark safety measures in place, like exclusion barriers that extend from the ocean floor to the surface of the water. These things help prevent incidents with sharks. If there are no beaches like this in your area, make sure to always use a beach with lifeguards so there are trained people in the area to help with emergencies.



Stay in shallow water if possible. Although sharks can come very close to shore if they want to, most sharks are seen in water more than waist deep, often behind the breaking waves.

Do not swim or surf if you're bleeding or injured - this could prompt a shark to investigate the source. Sharks have powerful senses (sight, smell, hearing, etc) including the "ampullae of Lorenzini" (sense for detecting electrical signals).

Pay attention to warnings and signage. Listen to lifeguards & Shark Spotters. If they tell you to leave the water, get out as quickly and calmly as possible. Look for signs that tell you if sharks are often seen in the area.

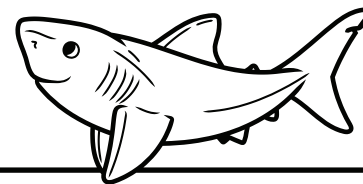


SHARK SPOTTERS
SAFETY EDUCATION RESEARCH CONSERVATION
www.sharkspotters.org.za

SHARKTOPIA®
www.sharktopia.org



SHARK SMART



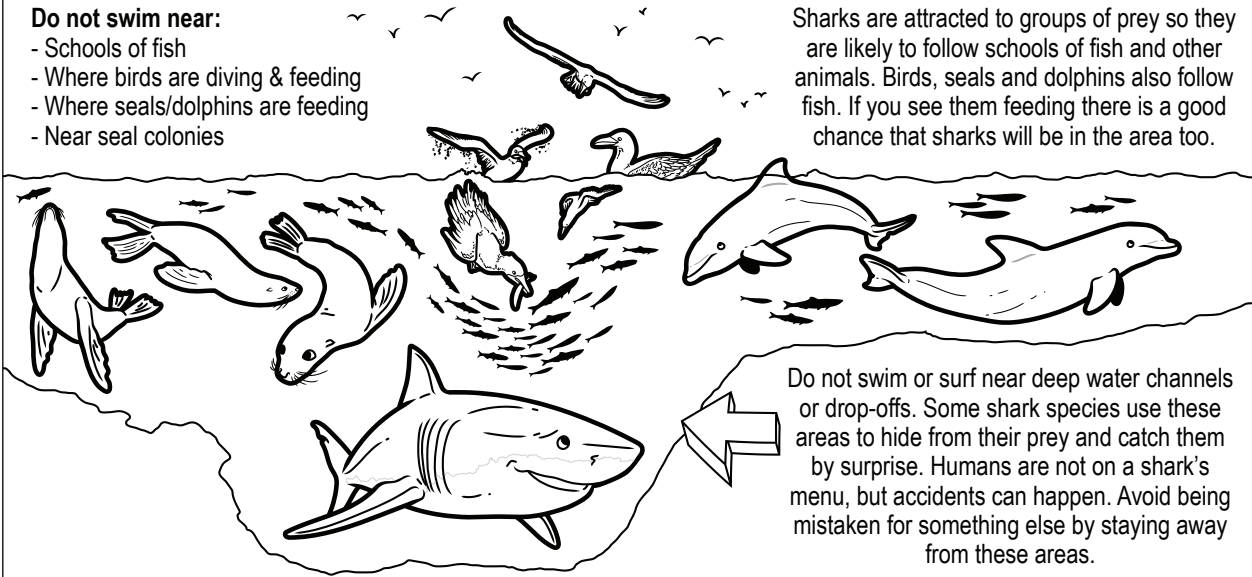
A river mouth is where a river flows into a larger body of water (lake, bay, gulf, sea, ocean, etc).

Do not swim in murky water, especially near river mouths. If you can't see in the water, a shark will not be able to see you properly either! This may cause them to get confused and come closer to investigate you. Some sharks, like Bull sharks, use river mouths to feed and reproduce so they occasionally gather in those areas.



Do not swim near:

- Schools of fish
- Where birds are diving & feeding
- Where seals/dolphins are feeding
- Near seal colonies



Sharks are attracted to groups of prey so they are likely to follow schools of fish and other animals. Birds, seals and dolphins also follow fish. If you see them feeding there is a good chance that sharks will be in the area too.

Do not swim or surf near deep water channels or drop-offs. Some shark species use these areas to hide from their prey and catch them by surprise. Humans are not on a shark's menu, but accidents can happen. Avoid being mistaken for something else by staying away from these areas.



Do not swim in the ocean at dawn, dusk, or at night. Some sharks feed more actively at these times. Also, when it is dark you cannot see hazards in the area (coral, rocks, jellyfish, sharks, etc).



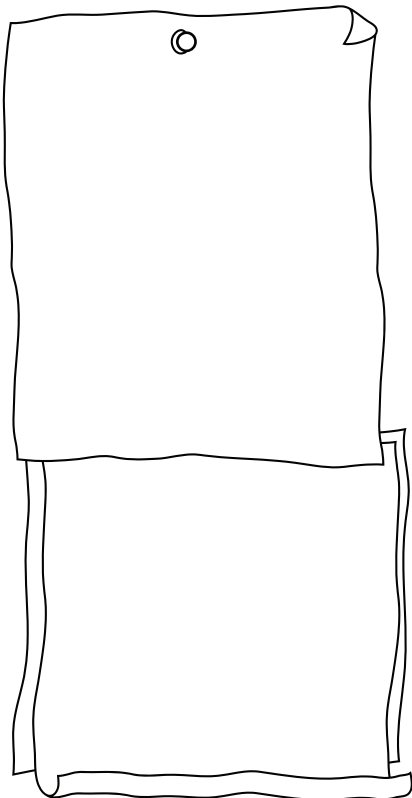
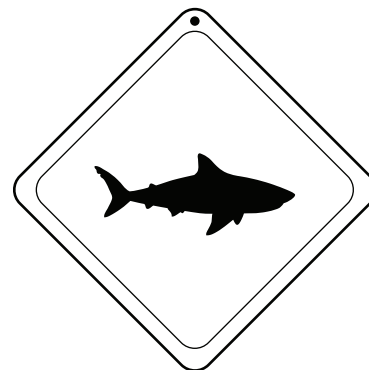
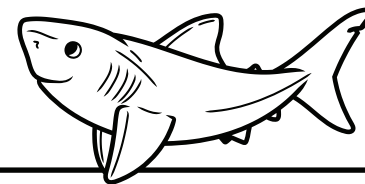
When surfing or swimming, consider wearing a blue camouflage wetsuit (or swimsuit) and use a surfboard with camouflage coloration that will help break up your silhouette. Do not wear shiny jewellery or contrasting colours. Shiny objects like necklaces, bracelets, and rings might look like fish scales when underwater and could attract a shark. Sharks use their eyesight to detect prey from a distance - they see colour differently than humans. They focus on the contrast between light and dark to form a visual perception.



Check local news, radio, etc. for recent shark activity and risk factors before visiting a specific beach. Things like schooling fish, deceased dolphin or whale, and fishing activities in the area will increase the chance of encountering a shark. If visiting a beach that has Shark Spotters, please check the Facebook page for updates: facebook.com/SharkSpotters



SHARK SMART



You can help everyone have a fun and safe day at the beach!
Create your own "Shark Safety notice board" using the important
tips you just learned. You can draw as many signs and sheets of
paper on this board as you want. Get creative with it!

