



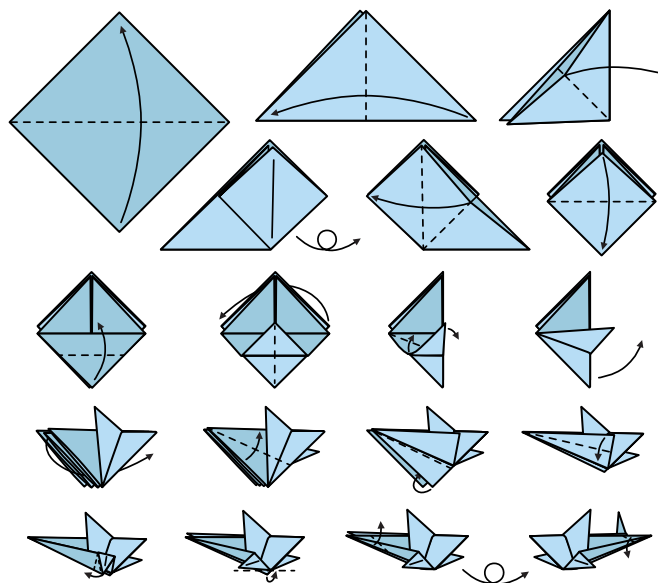
Inspired by the traditional Japanese story that folding 1,000 origami cranes will make one's wish come true, Paper Sharks is a project that aims to raise support & awareness for shark conservation.

Visit the PaperSharks.org website for more information, including downloadable paper patterns, instructions and tutorials for folding your own origami shark. Upload a photo of your finished shark to the online collection page and show your support for shark conservation!

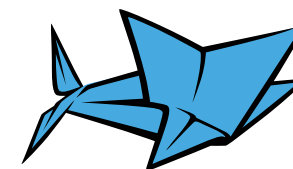
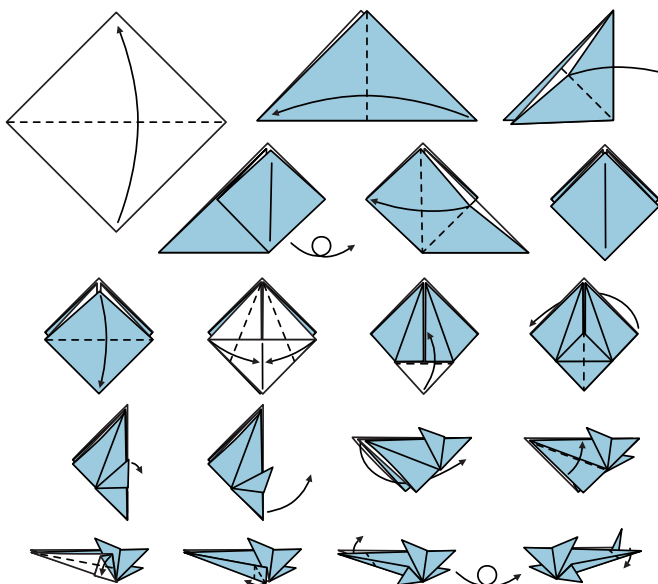
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 Origami design & pattern provided free of charge for personal and educational purposes related to shark conservation. This design/pattern may not be redistributed, altered or used for any *other* purpose without express permission.



origami shark A
(for double-sided paper)



origami shark B
(single-sided paper)



www.PaperSharks.org



RAISING AWARENESS & SUPPORT
FOR SHARK CONSERVATION

THE REAL DANGER IS EXTINCTION



One third of all shark species are currently threatened with extinction (2012 IUCN Red List)

A recent study published in the peer-reviewed journal *Marine Policy* estimates that around 100 million sharks are killed each year in commercial fisheries (though numbers could be as high as 273 million). Despite these staggering numbers, and evidence of drastic declines in shark populations, embarrassingly little is being done to regulate the shark fishing trade.

As sharks are typically slow to reproduce, the current level of trade is unsustainable. Sharks can take decades to reach maturity, and once mature, often only produce a few offspring at a time (with long gestation periods of up to two years). These factors make sharks extremely vulnerable to overfishing.

The driving force behind the massive slaughter of sharks is the demand for shark fin soup. Though shark fin itself is flavorless and devoid of nutritional value, shark fin soup is considered by many to be a “delicacy,” and is often served at weddings and banquets as a symbol of status.

An estimated 73 million sharks are killed each year for their fins alone, and with the growing affluence in countries like China, sharks are quickly being fished to the brink of extinction.

However, shark fin soup is not an issue of culture or tradition. We as a human race do nothing to honor our friends, family and those who came before us by persisting in a course of action that is detrimental to the world we live in. We ought to know the difference between traditions deserving of respect, and those that are nothing more than foolish practices.

Regardless of whether we consider the practice of shark finning cruel and wasteful (the fins of sharks are removed and the rest of the animal thrown back into the ocean to die a slow death), or whether due to media sensationalism we think of sharks as frightening, vicious animals, the fact remains that sharks play a key role in the health of our ocean ecosystem.

As top predators that have lived on this planet for millions of years, sharks play the important role of regulating the abundance and diversity of the species they prey on. The loss of sharks could very well be catastrophic to the health of our oceans, as well as the commercial fishing industry.

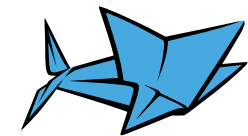
Although the main importers of shark fin are Hong Kong and China, the countries with the highest shark catches include Indonesia, India, Spain, Argentina, Taiwan, United States and Mexico. This is a global problem, and a responsibility we all must share.

It is a given that in the course of living we consume a portion the earth's resources, but we should always seek to do so responsibly by choosing sustainable food sources, and protecting the natural resources we may have damaged or depleted.

The categorical slaughter of sharks brought on by the shark fin trade cannot be sustained with the slow reproductive rates typical of sharks. In addition, the worldwide demand for other shark products, such as shark meat, cartilage and oil only adds to the excessive strain on shark populations. When we combine these factors with the progressive deterioration of ocean habitat from pollution, it is no wonder why sharks are in trouble.

Please do what you can to help by taking action and supporting shark conservation and education efforts. Please share this information with friends and family, and most importantly, say “no” to shark fin!

*make a wish for
shark conservation*



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