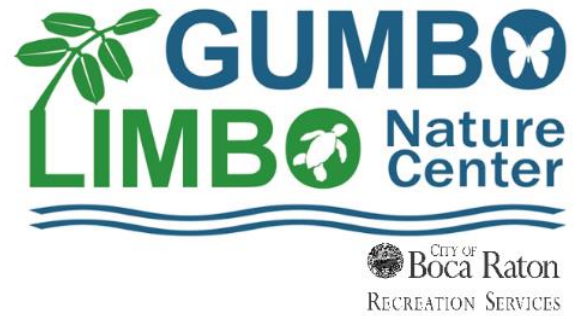


How Do Sharks Float?

Sharks are a type of **fish**, and they are also **carnivores**, which means they eat other animals. The type of fish that sharks are, have their bones made up of **cartilage**. This is the same flexible material that makes up our nose and ears! These creatures are very good predators, and that is partly because of their ability to swim fast! How do you think their body helps them to do this?



Do you think something very heavy could swim fast? Cartilage, the material that a shark's bones are made of is very light. This helps them to float and move quickly in the water.

These cool creatures also have something else that helps them! Sharks stay afloat or stay **buoyant** due to an oily liver and some fat. The oil in a shark's liver is lighter than water. It gives a shark some **buoyancy (or an ability to float)**. Let us do an experiment to see how this works!



Watch this video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Puis_8M8SE

Materials:

- 2 plastic bags
- 1 sharpie
- 1 container that can hold water two plastic bags
- Water
- Vegetable Oil

Activity:

1. Draw a shark on each of your plastic bags.
2. Fill one plastic bag shark with water.
3. Fill the other plastic bag shark with vegetable oil.
4. Fill the large container water.
5. Ask yourself: Which shark will float, which shark will sink?
6. Place both bags in the water filled container and await your results!