Hark! A Shark!

By Bonnie Worth

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This book has all kinds of information on sharks, but with a fun Dr. Seuss twist. The Cat in the Hat takes children on an adventure underwater to meet and learn about sharks. The rhyming of the descriptions and the bright and colorful pictures help make the learning fun. Instead of just telling the scary facts, this book shows all the good the sharks do for the ocean’s ecosystem.

ACTIVITY:

MATERIALS:

* Two strong Ziploc plastic bags
* Vegetable oil
* Water
* Large plastic tub or box
* Sharks made out of plastic file folders

1. Fish have a gas-filled swim bladder that keeps them afloat in the water. Sharks stay afloat (buoyant) due to an oily liver and fat. The oil in a shark’s liver is lighter than water. It gives a shark some buoyancy. The oil is still heavier than water and if the shark doesn’t keep moving it will sink.
2. You need to cut two sharks out of a plastic blue file folder.
3. Fill the tubs almost to the top with water.
4. One of the plastic bags will be filled with 2/3 of the way with water.
5. The other plastic bag will be filled with 2/3 of the way with vegetable oil.
6. Place a shark into each bag.
7. If you want, you can place duct tape over the top of the bag to keep the liquids inside.
8. Add the bags vertically.
   1. The bag with oil should flip on its side.
   2. The bag with water should sink down a little.
9. Add the bags horizontally.
   1. Both the bags should float at first, but after a short time the bag with water should sink.
10. Push down the bags.
    1. The bag with oil should float back up some.