Explorer Classroom Event Guide: Grades 3-8
Protecting Sharks | Andrej Gajic

Explorer Classroom is for everyone! This guide is designed for your students or family to get the most out of Explorer Classroom events! After the event, please share your thoughts, activities, and learnings with us on Twitter @NatGeoEducation using #ExplorerClassroom.

SEPTEMBER 24, 2020, 10:00 AM ET and 2:00 PM ET

BEFORE YOU TUNE IN

SIGN UP
Register here!

BEFORE THE EVENT

This event is recommended for learners in grades 3-8. As a group, build your background knowledge prior to the event with one of these activities or any combination of the linked resources that best fits your needs:

- **Read** the Explorer magazine feature *Out of the Water, Into the Lab* to familiarize yourself and your learners with Andrej Gajic's work as a marine biologist and head of National Geographic's Shark Tales team. **Watch** him describe his work in this 1 minute video.

- **Watch** Sharks 101 (5:16) to learn about the world's largest and fastest sharks, how they reproduce, and why some species are at risk of extinction.

- **Read** about the importance of Conservation and introduce learners to Marine Pollution, which can have a negative effect on sharks and their habitats.

None of the suggested resources fit your needs? Find more in our Resource Library.

- **Brainstorm** questions for the Explorer that either focus on the person themself, or their work. Help your learner revise their questions making sure they 1) only ask one thing; 2) have a clear purpose; and 3) are specific. You may need to work together through a few drafts to arrive at a solid final question. Review questions together and select two favorites to ask on-air (if you registered) or via Twitter @NatGeoEducation using #ExplorerClassroom.
**DURING THE EVENT**

As you listen, have students take notes using one of the graphic organizers listed below.

- **Two-Column Chart**: Print copies or ask your students to draw their own two-column chart. Have your students write things they are learning in one column and in the other, write questions about that information, or draw something related to it.
- **Cause-and-Effect Diagram**: Have your students use this organizer to identify what happened (effect) and why it happened (cause).

**AFTER THE EVENT**

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

Debriefing as a class or a family is an important part of the learning journey. Discussion helps learners process ideas, reflect, and make new connections. Use these questions to help provide context to the event. The questions are open-ended and designed to facilitate a discussion about the event you just participated in together.

1. What was one new thing you learned during the Explorer Classroom event you didn’t know before? What is one question you still have?
2. Why is exploration important?
3. What is something you would like to explore? Why?
4. What skills, tools, or knowledge would you need to explore?

**REFLECTION ACTIVITY**

We encourage students in grades 3-8 to reflect on what they’ve learned from the Explorer during the event by completing one of the following tasks and sharing their work with the class, a friend, family member, or with us on Twitter—@NatGeoEducation #Explorer Classroom—so the Explorer can see how much they’ve learned.

- Draw a picture illustrating one thing you learned from the Explorer.
- Write a short news article to tell others what the Explorer is working on and why that work is important.

**EXTENSION RESOURCES**

Try one of these resources and keep exploring with National Geographic Education.

- Browse the images and crittercam footage in this [Shark Collection](#).
- **Quiz Whiz: Sharks!**: Students test their knowledge of these ocean predators with this National Geographic Kids quiz.
- **Shark Teeth**: Students explore shark diversity by matching drawings of shark teeth to drawings of the sharks themselves. (Grades 3-5)
- **Sharks Under Threat**: Join conservationist and National Geographic Explorer Jess Cramp as she works to protect sharks and restore their reputation. (Grades 5+)
• **Real-World Uses of Ocean Maps:** Learners discuss how maps are helpful in real-world scenarios. Then they analyze how maps provide valuable information about the ocean. (Grades 6-8)

Looking for more ways to engage your students online, in-person, or at home? Find more on our Learn Anywhere page.