

# Hudson RiverKids Story Hour

## Paper Cup Shark Puppets

**Prep Time:** 5-10 minutes

**Activity Time:** 15-20 minutes

**Themes:** Biodiversity; Ecosystems; Habitat Loss; Human Impact

### Activity Summary:

This week's story is *If Sharks Disappeared* written by Lily Williams. What would happen if this overfishing caused sharks to disappear completely? Artist Lily Williams explores how the disappearance would affect other animals across the whole planet in this clever book about the importance of keeping sharks, and our oceans, healthy.

We invite you to follow along with this beautiful story and learn about the important role every species plays in keeping marine ecosystems in balance. Then, follow along with the instructions below to create your own friendly shark puppet using a paper cup and a few other common craft supplies!

### Materials:

- 1 Paper Cup
- Construction Paper or Cardboard
- Scissors
- Tape
- Glue (optional)
- Googly Eyes (optional)
- Markers or Paint

### Prep:

Depending on the age of your crafter, some prep of materials or assistance assembling might be necessary.

1. Cut your paper cup in half so you have two sides of the cup (rather than a short cup and a ring).
2. Place the two halves of the cup on a piece of construction paper or cardboard with the tops touching.
3. Trace the cup.
4. Set aside the cup and cut out the shape you have traced.
  - a. If you are using construction paper, keep the shape whole. Fold in half to make a crease where the tops of the cup halves met, and reopen.
  - b. If you are using cardboard, it may be easier to cut the shape in half where the tops of the cup halves met. You can tape them back together in the next step.
5. Tape your cup halves onto your construction paper or cardboard to create the head of your shark.
  - a. If you are using cardboard, tape the cardboard halves back together where the top of the cup halves line up.



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6. Cut out small triangles for teeth.
7. Cut out a large triangle for the dorsal fin.

## Instructions:

1. Tape or glue the large triangle on top of one of the cup halves.
2. Tape or glue the small triangles along the edges of the cup halves (where you made those cuts earlier on).
3. Paint or color in your shark. What color will your shark be?
4. Add some eyes. These can be googly eyes taped or glued onto your shark, or painted/drawn on.
5. You're done! Let any paint or glue dry before bringing your shark puppet to life.

