

Carolina's Dogfish Shark Dissection

Carolina's dogfish shark dissection allows students to develop their dissection and observation skills, identify major external and internal features of the shark, understand form and function, and gain a better understanding of vertebrate and fish anatomy.

Materials Required

Shark Dissection BioKit[®] (221448)

OR

Preserved Dogfish Shark (226851)

Adjustable Safety Glasses (646705)

Laboratory Apron (706245)

Nitrile Disposable Gloves (706335, 706336, 706337)

Large Animal Dissection Tray (629068)

Student Dissecting Set I (621096)

Absorbent Pad

Safety

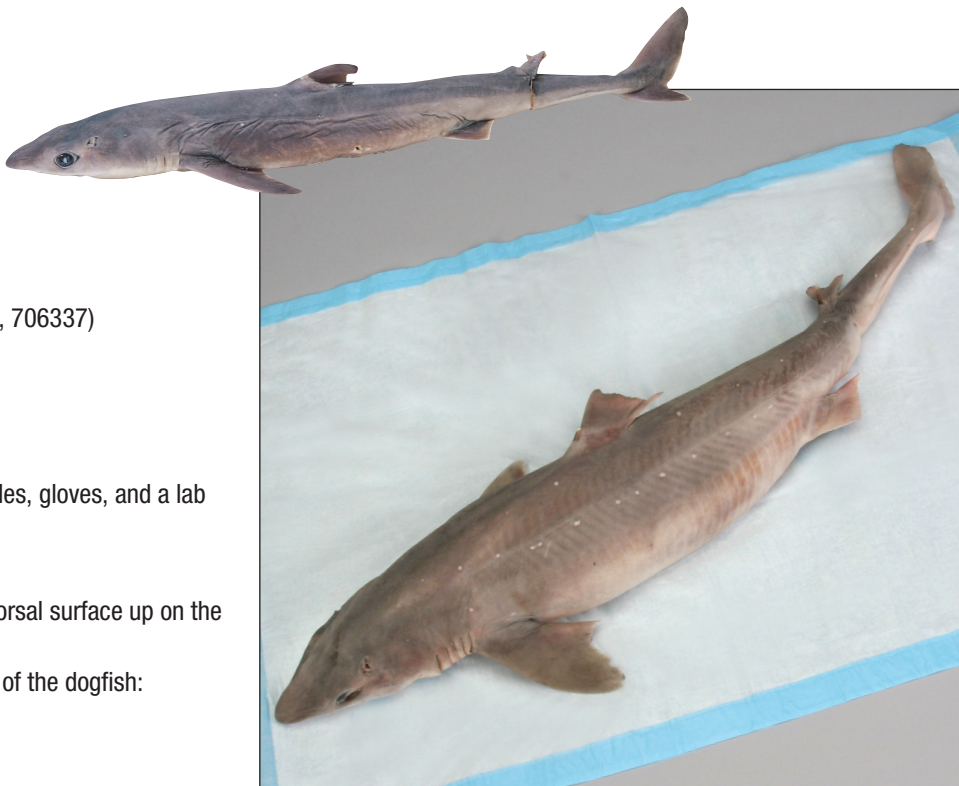
Have students wear safety glasses or goggles, gloves, and a lab apron when dissecting.

Activity Procedure

1. Obtain a dogfish specimen and lay it dorsal surface up on the dissection tray.
2. Identify the following external features of the dogfish:
 - a. Gill slits
 - b. Pectoral fin
 - c. Pelvic fin
 - d. Lateral line
 - e. Caudal fin
 - f. Posterior and anterior dorsal fins
3. Position the dogfish on the dissection tray with the ventral surface up.
4. Make an incision at the base of the left pectoral fin and cut through the body wall back to the pelvic girdle. Then make a transverse incision across the pelvic girdle (from right pectoral fin to left pectoral fin). Continue the incision posteriorly to the pelvic fins.

Results/Summary

Carolina's dogfish dissection helps students gain a better understanding of vertebrate anatomy. Dogfish are excellent specimens for investigating the similarities and differences of vertebrates.



5. Identify the following organs:
 - a. Spleen
 - b. Stomach
 - c. Liver
 - d. Small intestine
6. Open the stomach and observe the interior structure.
7. Examine the respiratory system by exposing and examining the gills and heart of the shark.

Additional Information

View more information, content links, and products related to this activity at www.carolina.com/takeaways.

