

Endangered species - make a basking shark puppet from recycled materials

What you need:

- Two litre or five litre plastic containers.
- Tape.
- Coloured plastic bags.
- Coloured sticky-backed plastic.
- Permanent markers.
- Scissors.
- Thin canes.

What to do

Wash out the containers. Cut the ends off and then trim to make a basking shark head (adult assistance may be needed). Cut plastic bags into strips, giving assorted lengths and colours. Attach the strips to the back of the shark's head, using strips of tape. If a ring of plastic strips is stuck to both the inside and outside of the container, it gives a fuller, thicker effect than a single layer.

Draw eyes and gill slits onto the shark and colour or decorate with pens and sticky-backed plastic. The ambitious could hang tiny 'plankton' on fishing line from the roof of the shark's mouth! Make a hole through the top and bottom of the shark's head (with adult supervision and assistance as necessary). Poke a cane through and tape it securely in place.

Now your shark can swim and wiggle and dance! Work with a partner or group to make up a play or dance featuring your sharks.

