INTRO TO SHARKS UNIT MAP:

OBJECTIVE: For this unit, students will have the opportunity to explore multiple shark species. Lesson 1 allows for students to investigate scientific findings, while working as a team of science collaborators. Lesson 2 allows students to participate in an ecosystem simulation that highlights population dynamics. Students will then move on to Lesson 3, which allows them an opportunity to handle and explore shark jaws and teeth. This unit culminates with Lesson 4, a project-based learning activity that allows students to explore a shark that piques their interests!

LENGTH: 5-7 days

GRADE LEVEL: 6-8

LESSON 1: SCIENTIST SHARK DIVE!

-- Students will act as scientists as they explore select shark species via ID sheets provided.

LESSON 2: POPULATION DYNAMICS ACTIVITY

-- Students will participate in a dynamic classroom simulation activity that highlights Predator / Prey population dynamics, particularly how they relate to sharks' role as an apex predator.

LESSON 3: TOOTH & JAW EXPLORATION

-- Students will be able to interact with provided shark jaws (from the species identified in lesson 1) while being introduced to new vocabulary relating to tooth form/function. Students will be challenged to find correlations between tooth form and prey type while also reflecting on the form and function of their own teeth!

LESSON 4: SHARK RESEARCH ACTIVITY

-- Students will be assigned a research project that encompasses the previously studied shark characteristics according to a shark species of their choosing. This PBL based unit will culminate in a class presentation upon completion.