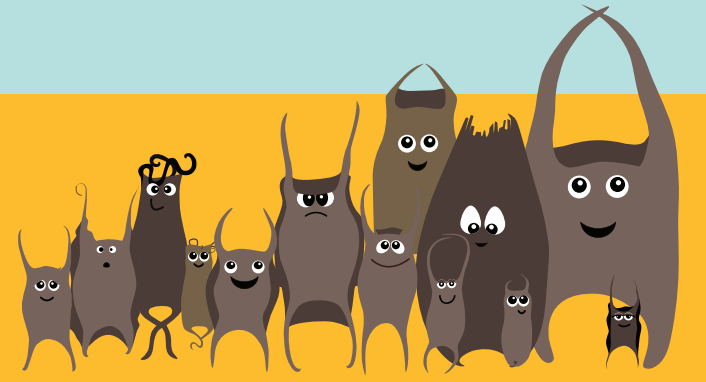




SHARKS & SKATES NEED YOU!



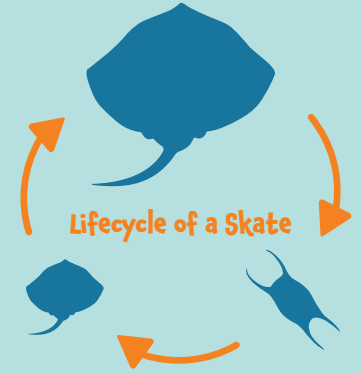
WHAT IS AN EGGCASE?

There are over **1200** different types of shark, skate and ray around the world. And they produce their young in a variety of different ways.

Some small sharks, and all skates, lay eggs. Just like a chicken! But instead of a shell, they're protected by a tough **EGGCASE**, which feels leathery. After growing for several months they hatch, breaking out of the eggcase as a fully formed miniature shark or skate.

Empty eggcases (or **MERMAID'S PURSES**) often wash up on the beach – where they're found by keen-eyed eggcase hunters. Like you! They come in all sorts of incredible shapes and sizes. And, because of this, we're able to tell which type, or species, of shark or skate laid the egg.

YOU can learn to identify eggcases too. Join in the hunt and we'll show you how!



Thank you for supporting the GREAT EGGCASE HUNT.
Happy eggcase hunting!



SAFEGUARDING THE FUTURE OF SHARKS
THROUGH POSITIVE CHANGE



Help **SHARKS**: become an **EGGCASE HUNTER**

www.eggcase.org

THE GREAT EGGCASE HUNT

You're going to become an expert at finding and identifying eggcases in no time. And, by recording your finds to us, you're doing a great thing for sharks and skates.



By taking part in the Great Eggcase Hunt you're helping us discover more about egg-laying sharks and skates. The more we know about them, the better we can protect them. So being an eggcase hunter is an important job.

SEARCH

Eggcases can be found all year round. They may have freshly hatched. Or they may have been lying empty on the seabed for a while, before being dislodged and washing ashore.

Pssst! Eggcases can be tricky to spot, but the best places to search are...

- Among the seaweed (in the strandline).
- At the back of the beach.
- In grass/sand dunes.

Stormy weather washes up lots of seaweed and debris. So, when it's safe to do so, this is a great time to go eggcase hunting.



IDENTIFY

Once you've found an eggcase, how do you identify it?

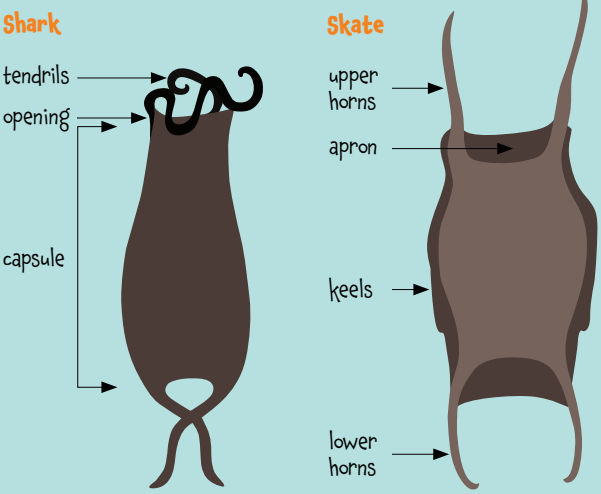
Soaking them first makes this much easier. Just pop them in water for a few hours! Larger eggcases may need a bit longer.

Next... you can use our eggcase ID guide to identify your finds. Look closely at...

Different features - including horns, tendrils, keels.

Size - eggcases can vary from 4cm to a whopping 20cm!

Shape - for example, eggcases shaped like a bowling pin are from catsharks, while squarer eggcases with pointed horns are from skates.



RECORD

Great job identifying your find! Now take a photo of your eggcase next to a coin/ruler. This is important as it helps us judge the size of the eggcase and verify your find. Upload this, along with details of where and when you found your eggcase by...

Using the online Recording Forms
at www.eggcase.org

Downloading our Citizen Science app
search for 'Shark Trust' in the relevant app store.

Emailing us
at eggcase@sharktrust.org

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EGGCASE ID GUIDE

BRITISH ISLES & NORTHWEST EUROPE

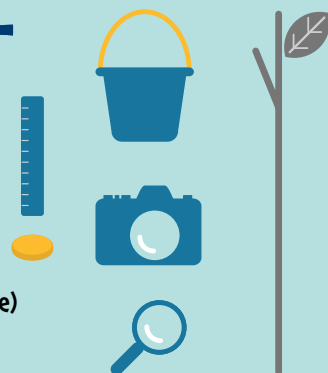
BE SAFE

- ★ Check tide times.
- ★ Tell someone where you're going.
- ★ Use a stick when rummaging in seaweed to avoid nasty surprises.
- ★ Take care near the base of cliffs.



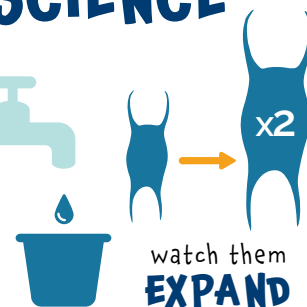
TOOL KIT

- ☒ Bucket
- ☒ Stick to rummage
- ☒ Camera
- ☒ Ruler/Coin (for scale)
- ☒ Eggcase ID Guide



BUCKET SCIENCE

Soak your eggcase for
24 hours
to make it easier to ID



REMEMBER

⚠ If you find an eggcase with a live animal inside, put it back in the sea. Carefully try to anchor it down so it doesn't wash ashore again.

⚠ Respect wildlife and don't take live animals home with you.

⚠ While looking in the strandline, why not do a spot of beach cleaning?



SHARK EGGCASES

SKATE EGGCASES

* Some of the skate below are confusingly called rays. But true rays give birth to live young and don't lay eggs.

