# sharks & rays

## CLASSIFICATION
## MAIN AQUARIUM & TOUCH POOL

THE AQUARIUM OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
SEA FOR YOURSELF

## PART 1 - TOUCH POOL

Background Information:

Every animal has a set of special features. Some features they may share with lots of other animals. Some features they may share with only a few. There will also be at least one special feature that no other animal has!

Scientists group animals based upon how many special features they share. This process is called classification.

Task: Read with purpose, the signs next to our touch pool.

Record below what they tell you about the unique features of Port Jackson and Bamboo sharks.

PORT JACKSON SHARK

BAMBOO SHARK

# sharks & rays

**a q w a**

THE AQUARIUM OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

SEA FOR YOURSELF

## PART 2 - MAIN AQUARIUM

Background Information:

Sharks & Rays are known as cartilagenous fish and belong to the class of animals known as *Chondrichthyes* and the sub-class *Elasmobrachii.*

*Chondrichthyes* are fish with a skeleton made of cartilage, jaws, paired fins, and paired nostrils. While *Elasmobranchii* have cylindrical or flattened bodies, five to seven pairs of gill slits, an upper jaw not fused to the skull and tooth-like scales.

This group is then divided into: *Batoidea* (rays and their relatives) and *Selachii* (sharks).

### SHARKS

Sharks have jaws, gills and 5 sets of fins, just like fish. However they also have; a skeleton of cartilage and a body covered in tiny teeth.

### RAYS

Rays have a skeleton of cartilage, just like sharks. However they also have; side fins that stretch the length of their body and a flattened body with gills underneath.

### STINGRAYS

Stingrays are a type of ray that have a barbed, venomous spine on their tail.

## Task 2: Field Notes

There are 9 species of sharks and rays in our main aquarium.

As you travel through our underwater tunnel identify 3 different sharks or rays and record some field notes about them.

Hints: Look for; body shape, the relative size of fins, the shape of their tail, colouring and behaviour (including where in the water column they are swimming).

### SKETCH:

### BEHAVIOURAL NOTES:

SKETCH:

BEHAVIOURAL NOTES:

SKETCH:

BEHAVIOURAL NOTES:

Based upon your observations, can you suggest the feature (or features) that could be used to classify each one into their own group?