



TEACHNING GUIDE

International Sawfish Day (October 17, 2025)

What? The World Sawfish Day, which aims to raise awareness about this animal and protect the oceans where it lives.

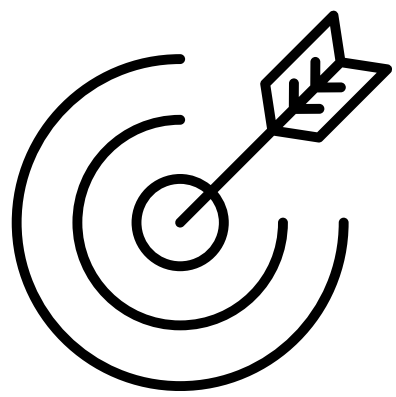
Who? The sawfish, a large marine fish recognizable by its long, flat, toothed snout, which looks like a saw!

Where? Sawfish are found in tropical and subtropical waters: in South America, Africa, Australia, and Southeast Asia.

When? On October 17 each year.

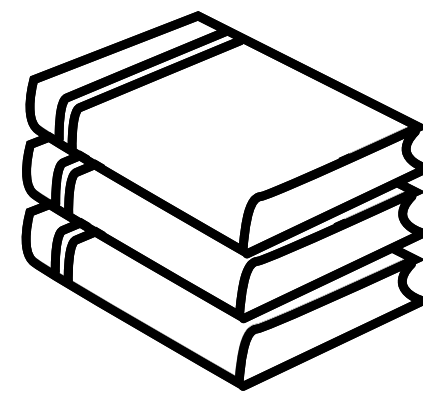
Why is it important? Because this fish is now threatened with extinction due to overfishing and the destruction of mangroves, its natural habitat.

For this activity, your goal will be **to learn more about the sawfish.**



OBJECTIVES

- Understand what a sawfish is and discover the five existing species.
- Explore the physical characteristics of each species: size, lifespan, and number of teeth.
- Identify the threats facing sawfish and propose solutions to protect them.



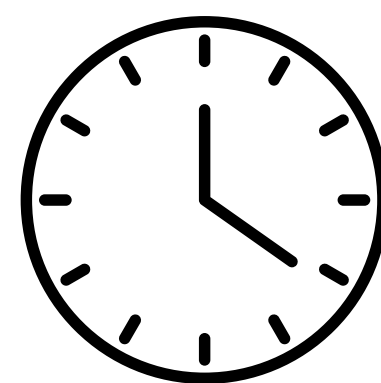
SUBJECTS

- **Language.** Reading texts and written production.
- **Science and Technology.** Study of an endangered animal species.
- **Social Studies.** Exploration of the oceans and the distribution areas of species.
- **Citizenship.** Reflection on civic engagement.



COMPETENCIES

- **Language.** Read a variety of texts, write a variety of texts.
- **Science and Technology.** Explore the diversity of living organisms and understand the impacts of human activity on marine ecosystems.
- **Social Studies.** Understand global environmental issues.



DURATION

- Between 45 to 60 minutes

GETTING STARTED

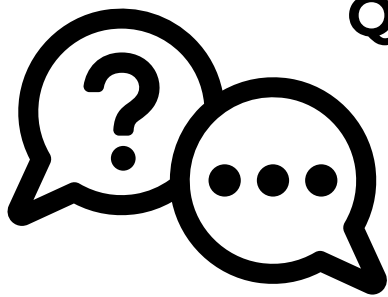
- Project a photo or a short video of a sawfish in its natural habitat.
- Ask the students:
 - "Have you ever seen this fish?"
 - "Why do you think it has a saw-shaped snout?"
- Let the students express their hypotheses.
- Then explain: "This fish is called the sawfish. There are five different species in the world, and today they are threatened with extinction. Together, we are going to discover them and learn how to better protect them."



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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS



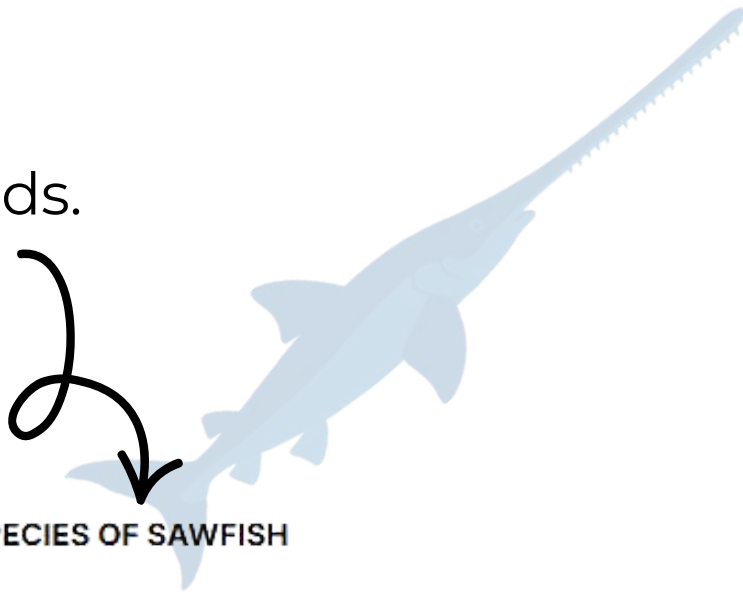
STEP 1 - A Strange Fish. Video about the sawfish and comprehension questions.

- **Q1** - They are associated with sharks.
- **Q2** - They are in fact rays.
- **Q3** - It is called a rostrum.

STEP 2 — Discovering the Five Sawfish. Internet research and filling out the five cards.

STEP 3 — Sawfish in Danger! Short text about the sawfish and two comprehension questions.

- **Q4** - Accidental fishing in nets, destruction of their coastal habitat, pollution of oceans and rivers, climate change, and reduction in the number of prey.
- **Q5** - Creation of marine protected areas, banning targeted fishing and dangerous nets, awareness and education programs, monitoring and reintroduction in certain areas, and reducing plastic and chemical pollution.



THE FIVE SPECIES OF SAWFISH

Dwarf Sawfish Length: Up to 11 feet Number of teeth: 19 to 23 Lifespan: 34 years	Green Sawfish Length: Up to 20 feet Number of teeth: 23 to 24 Lifespan: 24 years	Large-tooth Sawfish Length: Up to 23 feet Number of teeth: 14 to 24 Lifespan: 36 to 80 years
Narrow Sawfish Length: 11.5 feet Number of teeth: 16 to 29 Lifespan: 9 years	Small-tooth Sawfish Length: Up to 16 feet Number of teeth: 22 to 29 Lifespan: Several decades	

TO WRAP UP



- Review of the main findings: what have we learned about the sawfish, its five species, and the reasons why it is now threatened?
- Ask the student to say in one sentence what surprised or touched them the most about the sawfish.
- Together, remind why it is important to protect marine animals and preserve their habitats to maintain the balance of the oceans.

FURTHER EXPLORATION



- Activities - <https://internationalsawfishday.org/resources>
- Ruth H. Leeney, *All About Sawfishes*, Center for Coastal Studies.

