**Shark Talk Script**

EDU:

Welcome everyone! Today, we will be talking about sharks. How many of you are scared of sharks?

NAO:

(Looks at EDU while talking and lifts his arms) I am!

EDU:

(Looks at NAO) I didn't know that you were scared of sharks.

NAO:

(Brings his head up and down quickly, as if nervous) I am!

EDU:

It's true that sharks are often seen as the most dangerous and feared predators in the ocean. Thanks to some movies, we’ve acquired an image of sharks as bloodthirsty killers that will attack us while we swim peacefully in the sea! But trust me, sharks prefer eating fish to humans; otherwise, they’d need to come out of the water to search for food.

NAO:

(Tilts head with hand on chin, like a thinking emoji) That kind of makes sense, but I'm still not convinced.

EDU:

Let me tell you more, NAO. Sharks are fish!

NAO:

(Opens arms and interrupts) But wait a minute, what do you mean by saying that sharks are fish?

EDU:

Let me explain. Sharks have gills to breathe, scales on their skin, and they are vertebrates, just like other fish. But sharks have two characteristics that differentiate them from other fish:

They have a cartilaginous skeleton, not a bony skeleton. It's like our nose and ears.

(NAO touches its ears)

Male sharks have claspers. Claspers allow the male to penetrate the female to transmit sperm through internal fertilization. You can easily see them on the sand tiger sharks here. (Points to the sharks)

NAO:

(Turns to look at the aquarium, then turns back to the guests)

EDU:

Sharks and rays belong to the same family and have been around for about 400 million years.

NAO:

(Brings hands up, shaking head) No way!

EDU:

I know, NAO, it's very impressive. That’s a long time before the first dinosaurs appeared! At that time, life on Earth was concentrated in the oceans. It was the Era of Fish. Sharks have a very long history. They also share some characteristics with us. About 450 million years ago, we shared a common ancestor. We can be seen as distant cousins! For example:

Like humans, fertilization in sharks occurs internally.

Studies show that shark and human immune systems are very similar; they have all four types of white blood cells found in mammals.

Sharks have five senses like us.

NAO:

So, there is a little bit of shark in all of us!

EDU:

Yes, but we also have some differences. Sharks have two extra senses. Do you know what they are?

NAO:

(Turns head left and right) No.

EDU:

Let me show you:

Sharks have a lateral line, which you can see on any passing shark or bony fish. The lateral line allows them to sense movement on their sides.

(NAO turns to the tank, then turns back to the guests)

Sharks also have electrical sensors in their "nose." These are called Ampullae of Lorenzini, which allow them to sense electromagnetic fields. This system helps them navigate and detect prey, predators, and obstacles.

NAO, do you want to learn some more fun facts about sharks?

NAO:

(Moves head back and forth, excited) Yes, I do!

EDU:

Here are a couple of fun facts:

The largest shark is the whale shark, which can grow as large as 18 meters.

The smallest shark is the dwarf lantern shark, which is smaller than a human hand.

There are currently 548 known shark species, and only 13 have bitten humans.

There are an average of 72 unprovoked shark bites globally each year; in 2021, only 9 were fatal. In comparison, mosquitoes cause around 400,000 deaths annually.

NAO:

(Turns to the tank, then back to the guests) Okay, maybe sharks are more interesting than I thought. But are there any benefits to having sharks?

EDU:

Yes, sharks are often called the doctors of the ocean. They help prevent the spread of diseases and maintain healthy marine ecosystems. Can you guess how many sharks are killed each year?

NAO:

I don’t know, maybe you can ask our guests.

EDU:

(Looks at the guests) Up to 100 million sharks are killed each year, compared to just 10 fatal human deaths caused by sharks.

NAO:

(Smiles, lifts arms in a bodybuilder pose) And zero robots eaten by sharks!

(Returns to normal position)

EDU:

(Laughs) You’re right. Humans are much more dangerous to sharks than they are to us. NAO, do you know why we kill sharks?

NAO:

I think I do:

For food

To get their fins for soup or medicine

Bycatch, because they get entangled in nets

Habitat destruction

Pollution

EDU:

Great answer, NAO!

NAO:

But what can we do to protect sharks?

EDU:

We can do many things, but here are a few important ones:

Reduce pollution by not littering, participating in beach cleanups, recycling, and reusing plastic bags and water bottles.

Practice and promote responsible fishing.

Avoid foods that use shark fins, like shark fin soup.

NAO:

Wow, I'm starting to feel good about sharks. Can I show something to our guests?

EDU:

What do you want to show?

NAO:

I’m really good at doing the Baby Shark dance!

EDU:

Wow, I’d love to see that. Do you guys want to see NAO dance to Baby Shark? Okay, let’s see it! Anyone who wants to join NAO can come up and dance.

(Turns on music)

NAO:

(Dances Baby Shark)

Thank you for the applause!

EDU:

Thank you all for coming. We invite you to explore the Wheel of Action to learn more about how you can protect our planet, which gives us food, water, oxygen, and a pleasant climate. Thanks, and we hope to see you again at Odysseo!

Notes:

Further refinement of NAO's movements and gaze direction is needed.

Let's test the script to ensure it doesn't exceed 15 minutes.

If successful, we will wor**k on a French version.**