

Elementary Classroom Programs

1) Homes in the Sea: Habitats - From reefs to tide pools, discover the places that animals call home.

Pre K – K students will...

- Explore the components of a habitat and compare animal habitats to human habitats.
- Classify items as either living or non-living.
- Sort living things based on their many diverse characteristics and learn how these characteristics influence what type of habitat they live in.

1st – 2nd Grade students will...

- Identify the multiple components that must interact effectively to maintain the health of a natural ecosystem.
- Observe the diversity of characteristics that allow marine life to be suited to their environments.
- Describe the components of different habitats including coral reefs, sandy bottoms and open ocean.

3rd – 5th Grade students will...

- Discuss the make-up of coral and coral reefs, and determine if they are a plant, animal, rock, or a combination of both.
- Explore the diversity of living creatures and compare the traits that allow them to grow, reproduce and survive in different types of habitats.
- Explain the effects that human actions have on coral reefs and discuss both the beneficial and harmful effects they have on our oceans.

2) Survival at Sea: Animal Adaptations - Find out how animals have adapted to survive in this watery world.

Pre K – K students will...

- Classify the characteristics of both living & non-living things.
- Sort a variety of animals based on their similarities, including where they live in the ocean including coral reefs, sandy bottoms and open ocean.
- Compare adaptations that allow certain animals to survive in water.

1st – 2nd Grade students will...

- Identify the physical differences between fish, reptiles and mammals and describe the specific traits that each possess to live successfully in their environments.
- Observe the series of orderly changes that animals must undergo during their life cycles.
- Ask and answer questions about how sea turtles, sharks and seals are all connected, and see why the survival of some of these species is threatened.

3rd – 5th Grades students will...

- Identify the characteristics of a fish and provide evidence to prove whether or not a shark is a fish.
- Explore the diversity of living creatures and compare the traits that allow them to grow, reproduce and survive including a shark's six senses.
- Explain the effects that human actions have on coral reefs and discuss both the beneficial and harmful effects they have on our oceans.

3) What's for Lunch? Food Chains - Learn about food chains and how each animal plays a part.

Pre K – K students will...

- Classify the characteristics of both living & non-living things.
- Sort a variety of animals based on their similarities including where they live in the ocean: coral reefs, sandy bottoms or open ocean.
- Compare the differences between sharks, stingrays, sea stars and puffer fish and sort them based on how they eat.

1st – 2nd Grade students will...

- Identify vocabulary words associated with food chains and determine the producers, consumers and decomposers within a food chain.
- Explore the differences between a “food chain” and “food web” and examine how animals are interconnected within them.
- Compare adaptations that allow animals to survive and explain how these adaptations determine where an animal falls within the food chain or web.

3rd – 5th Grade students will...

- Identify the characteristics of a fish and provide evidence to prove whether or not a shark is a fish.
- Explore what and how sharks eat and provide evidence that their feeding habits can be determined by examining the size, shape and texture of their teeth.
- Compare predator/prey relationships and explain how size plays a role in these relationships.
- Discuss the relationship between humans and sharks: explore the threat that one poses to the other and the effects that shark extinction would have on the environment.

Additional Program:

Behind the Scenes Tour – For all ages!

The Behind-the-Scenes Tour is a 45-minute long guided tour of our food prep kitchen, water quality lab and up to the top of the tanks above our 300-foot long tunnel! This allows you to see first hand how we care for our 10,000 sea creatures and check out some animals not yet on display!