



ADAPTATIONS AROUND THE AQUARIUM

Pre-Aquarium Visit

1. Define adaptation. _____
2. Make a list of animal adaptations. _____
3. How do adaptations help an organism survive? _____

Animal Planet Australia: Wild Extremes

4. This snake has a black head. How do you think this snake uses its head to regulate its body temperature? _____
5. In the *Australia* exhibit, there is a fish that is born male and then becomes female. Locate this fish and write its name. _____
6. Find the archerfish. What do you notice about its lips? How do these lips help the fish survive? _____
7. Which Australian fish can survive out of the water? _____

Blacktip Reef

8. What are some benefits of living in a coral reef? _____
9. Blacktip reef sharks are considered apex predators. This means they are at the top of the food chain. What would happen if all blacktip reef sharks were removed from their environment? _____
10. Is coral a living organism? _____

Blue Wonders: Reefs to Rainforests

11. In the *Coastal Beach* exhibit, how does the flounder defend itself? _____
12. Fish with a mustache! Lake sturgeon are called bottom feeders. How do they use their "whiskers" to find food? _____
13. Why do puffins have bright orange feet and a bright beak? _____

Amazon River Forest

14. Come eye to eye with the silver arawana. What is unique about its eyesight? _____

Upland Tropical Rain Forest

15. Climb to the top of the rain forest. Can you find a sloth? What adaptations does a sloth possess to be able to live in the rain forest? _____
16. What does bright coloration on insects or frogs usually mean? _____

Atlantic Coral Reef/Shark Alley

19. Find a stingray and watch it move. How does its body shape help it to glide through the water? _____

20. What is the advantage of having gills and a mouth underneath your body, like a stingray? _____

21. Why do fish swim in a school? _____

22. What is the function of a "saw-like" mouth on the large-tooth sawfish? _____

Dolphin Discovery (Hint: You can ask a dolphin trainer for help)

23. A dolphin is darker on the top and lighter on the bottom. This is called counter-shading. Watch the dolphins and predict how counter-shading helps a dolphin survive in its environment. _____

24. What adaptations do dolphins have that help them survive in their environment? _____

Jellies Invasion: Oceans Out of Balance

25. What adaptation does the spotted lagoon jelly use for protection from predators? _____

26. How are jellyfish surviving the algae blooms created from global warming? _____

27. What allows Pacific sea nettles to stay in or around sunlight? _____

Post-Aquarium Visit

28. What was the coolest adaptation you saw during your visit to the Aquarium? _____

29. What was your favorite part of your Aquarium visit? Why? _____

VSC Standards:

GOAL 3.0 LIFE SCIENCE:

The students will use scientific skills and processes to explain the dynamic nature of living things, their interactions and the results of the interactions that occur over time.

GOAL 6.0 ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE:

Students will use scientific skills and processes to explain the interactions of environmental factors (living and non-living) and analyze their impact from a local to a global perspective.

5 EXPECTATIONS FOR ALL CHAPERONES

Welcome to the National Aquarium! As a chaperone, you have a very important job. If you follow these tips, your trip will be safe, educational and fun!

1. **Keep your group together.** Chaperones are required to stay with their students at all times! Students must enter *Dolphin Discovery* and 4-D Immersion Theater with a chaperone.
2. **Food, drinks, gum and smoking are not permitted in the Aquarium.**
3. **If you must leave the Aquarium, get your hand stamped for re-entry** at the exit door. Students do not need their hands stamped, only chaperones.
4. **Use caution.** Please limit or eliminate the use of cell phones. Please exercise caution on the escalators.
5. **Be respectful.** Please do not tap or bang on the exhibit windows, as it can disturb the animals. Please be courteous around other Aquarium visitors.

Thank you for complying with these expectations.

We hope you and your group have a fun and educational field trip! Due to the large number of students touring our facility, we regret that we cannot check coats, book bags or other storage containers.