

## CONSERVATION AND THE AQUARIUM



### Pre-Aquarium Visit

1. Define conservation. Answers vary
2. What do you think the National Aquarium is doing to conserve the environment? Answers vary

### Animal Planet Australia: Wild Extremes

3. Why is it important to protect grey-headed flying foxes? Seed dispersal, pollination.
4. What causes fires across the Australian landscape? Lightning during dry season.
5. List three ways we can conserve water.
  - a. Answers vary
  - b. Answers vary
  - c. Answers vary

### Blacktip Reef

6. How can you help protect coral reefs? Choose seafood caught or farmed in sustainable ways to prevent overfishing, recycle to protect from pollution, support creation and maintenance of marine-protected areas, conserve energy to show effects of climate change...

### Blue Wonders: Reefs to Rainforests

7. How is the wood turtle being harmed in its natural environment? Habitat loss and the pet trade.
8. What has led to the decline of the striped bass? Acid rain, toxic pollution, and barriers on spawning streams kill eggs and young rockfish.
9. How can you help protect the striped bass? Answers vary
10. What are at least three issues that seabirds are currently facing? Toxic chemicals in water, oil spills, small mammals eating eggs, overfishing.

### Upland Tropical Rain Forest

11. What is causing the decline of the oriole? Logging, agriculture, development, habitat loss.
12. What percentage of prescription drugs in the US come from tropical plants? List one and what it cures. 25 percent. Quinine cures malaria. Rosy periwinkle aids in childhood leukemia and Hodgkins disease.
13. Golden lion tamarins are quickly declining in numbers. Why? Fragmented forests, isolation from other tamarins, a decrease in genetic exchange.
14. What can we do to help protect the golden lion tamarins? Protect natural habitat, plant corridors or roadways to link fragmented forests and tamarins.

### Atlantic Coral Reef/Shark Alley

15. Why are coral reefs so important to protect? These biodiverse ecosystems support fishing communities, protect shorelines and attract divers and other tourists.
16. What threats are coral reefs facing? Coral bleaching, climate change, overfishing, development.

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

17. What does National Aquarium Animal Rescue do? Responds to and rehabilitates marine animals that are hurt or injured in the wild.

18. What are three things you can do to protect the ocean? Choose food and products that are ocean safe, make environmentally friendly choices that limit your carbon footprint, and try to buy local products.
19. Watch at least one video from Ocean Today (located in the underwater viewing area) and list three facts you learn.
- a. Answers vary      b. Answers vary      c. Answers vary

### **Jellies Invasion: Oceans Out of Balance**

20. What is the number one predator of jellies? Sea turtles.
21. What is the leading cause of death of many sea turtles? Hunting, caught in sea nets, pollution.
22. How can you help protect sea turtles and other predatory fish? Reduce plastic use, use reusable bags, support animal rescue organizations.
23. Define invasive species. What makes a jellyfish invasive? Being introduced to an environment where an organism is not naturally found. Jellies have few natural predators and populations increase rapidly.
24. How can you help reduce global warming? Carpool, take mass transit, participate in cleanups and tree plantings, use less fertilizer.

### **Assorted Questions**

25. Visit a restroom. How are the hand dryers conserving energy? No paper waste. They dry hands quicker, which uses less energy.
26. Fill in the blank: Without water, there would be no... Answers vary

### **Post-Aquarium Visit**

27. What did you discover the Aquarium is doing to conserve our oceans? Answers vary
28. What was your favorite part of the Aquarium? Why? Answers vary

### **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.