



# YOUR CHILD'S FIELD TRIP TO THE NATIONAL AQUARIUM

*Together, we  
are as powerful  
as the ocean  
itself.*

[aqua.org](http://aqua.org)

501 East Pratt Street  
Baltimore, Maryland  
21202-3194  
P 410-576-3800

## WHAT YOUR CHILD WILL SEE AND DO

After checking in, students, chaperones and teachers head through the Aquarium's main entrance where they will see the *Allegheny Cascades*, an exhibit representing a Western Maryland stream with native fish and a 35-foot-tall waterfall. Next, groups head upstairs to *Australia: Wild Extremes*, which introduces students to a typical Northern Australia river gorge. Encourage your child to look "up, down and all around" in this exhibit, where students will learn about the species that have adapted to this harsh environment, such as the pig-nosed turtle, laughing kookaburra and freshwater crocodile.

In *Blue Wonders*, your child will travel to a breathtaking Indo-Pacific coral reef filled with sharks, rays and a green sea turtle. From there, students will explore other fascinating ecosystems, such as *Maryland: Mountains to the Sea* and the *Upland Tropical Rain Forest*. Throughout the Aquarium, your child will have the opportunity to see the unique environmental adaptations of many different organisms. The *Atlantic Coral Reef* and *Shark Alley* exhibits allow children to safely experience the thrill of underwater diving with tropical fish and large sharks.

Crossing an indoor pedestrian bridge brings students to the Aquarium's Pier 4 Pavilion. Here, they will find the *Jellies Invasion* exhibit, where they can marvel at beautiful jelly species drifting through specially designed habitats. Pier 4 is also home to *Dolphin Discovery*, where students can view the amazing adaptations of the Atlantic bottlenose dolphin and learn about these incredible mammals.

## ENGAGE YOUR CHILD BEFORE THE TRIP

- Remind your child that it is great to ask questions.
- Ask your child to make predictions about what they may see at the Aquarium.
- Encourage them to practice being patient; if they are still and quiet, animals may venture out of hiding spaces where they will be easier to spot.
- Take a virtual trip to the National Aquarium with your student using our webcams at [aqua.org/webcams](http://aqua.org/webcams).

## WHAT TO ASK YOUR CHILD AFTER THE TRIP

- What did you learn today? How can you use this knowledge at school and at home?
- What was the most interesting animal you saw today? Have your child explain what the animal looks like, where it lives and what it eats. If your child doesn't remember, visit [aqua.org/animals](http://aqua.org/animals) to learn more.
- What can we do to help animals like those living at the Aquarium? Create a conservation plan at home that can help protect the planet.

## FAMILY TIME

Now that your child has experienced the wonders of the aquatic world at the National Aquarium, participate in activities together that can help bring conservation knowledge into your home. The following are suggested activities.

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## CRAFT TOGETHER: OCEAN DIORAMA

### Materials:

Paper (card stock or thick paper works best)  
Small box (try an old shoebox)  
Crayons  
Markers  
Tape  
Yarn  
Colored pencils

### Instructions:

- Decorate your small box to look like an underwater habitat. Draw and color rocks, coral, seaweed, scuba divers, submarines, etc.
- Draw ocean animals on the paper, color them and cut them out.
- Use yarn to suspend your sea animals from the top of the box, so it looks like they are swimming.

## BOOKS THE WHOLE FAMILY CAN ENJOY

“The Salamander Room” by Anne Mazer

“The Shaman’s Apprentice: A Tale of the Amazon Rain Forest”  
by Lynne Cherry and Mark J. Plotkin

“A House for Hermit Crab” by Eric Carle

“The Marine Biology Coloring Book, Second Edition” by Thomas Niesen

“A Hot Planet Needs Cool Kids: Understanding Climate Change and  
What You Can Do About It” by Julie Hall and Sarah Lane

“Why Should I Recycle?”; “Why Should I Protect Nature?” and  
“Why Should I Save Energy?”  
by Jen Green

“All the Way to the Ocean” by Joel Harper

## TAKE ACTION

- Volunteer at a National Aquarium conservation event to help restore local ecosystems. For a list of upcoming events, visit [aqua.org/care/conservation-events](http://aqua.org/care/conservation-events).
- We have always needed the ocean, and now the ocean needs us. Visit [seachange.com](http://seachange.com) to join our Sea Change community and help create a better tomorrow for our ocean planet.

## HELPFUL WEBSITES

National Aquarium: [aqua.org](http://aqua.org)

National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration:  
[oceanservice.noaa.gov/kids](http://oceanservice.noaa.gov/kids)

Environmental Protection Agency: [epa.gov/kids](http://epa.gov/kids)

Chesapeake Bay Program: [chesapeakebay.net](http://chesapeakebay.net)

## HINTS FOR FUTURE VISITS

Visit [aqua.org](http://aqua.org) for the best times to visit, hours, directions and dining options.

Buy tickets in advance! Order online at [aqua.org/tickets](http://aqua.org/tickets).

Plan your trip by visiting [aqua.org/visit/baltimore/plan-aquarium-visit](http://aqua.org/visit/baltimore/plan-aquarium-visit).

Become a National Aquarium member. Enjoy unlimited admission for one year; VIP express entry through the member entrance; members-only events throughout the year; discounts on parking, tours, guest tickets and special experiences; and more.