

Aquarium Resource Guide

At the ABQ BioPark

2nd – 5th grade

**Albuquerque Biological Park
EDUCATION**



2601 Central NW * Albuquerque, NM 87104 * (505) 764-6200

Educational Activities

The ABQ BioPark Aquarium is home to approximately 3,000 aquatic animals from a variety of salt and freshwater habitats. The aquarium's theme follows a drop of water as it travels from the headwaters of the Rio Grande in Colorado to the Atlantic Ocean. A nine-minute film, "One River, Many Voices," introduces visitors to this journey. The aquarium offers a wonderful setting to teach about conservation and stewardship. By actually seeing a shark swim by, touching a crab, hearing the waves lapping the shore or smelling the mud flats, you experience the diversity of life. For teachers, the aquarium offers a chance to learn and teach in a non-traditional setting. The aquarium is a stimulating educational resource, with applications for many disciplines.

The following activities may be used during your visit to the Aquarium with your elementary school students.

HABITAT HUNT

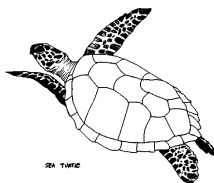
The aquarium makes every effort to display animals in a natural setting to help visitors visualize the animal in its native habitat. A habitat is an animal's home. It provides an animal with food, water, and shelter. Some habitats in the aquarium are the coral reef, salt marsh, and river. Match each aquatic animal with its habitat.

DIFFERENT IS GOOD

An adaptation is a change in a body structure or behavior that better enables a plant or animal to survive in its habitat. An example might be the streamlined shell of a sea turtle. By observing the aquatic animals, students will be able to match the animal to its adaptation.

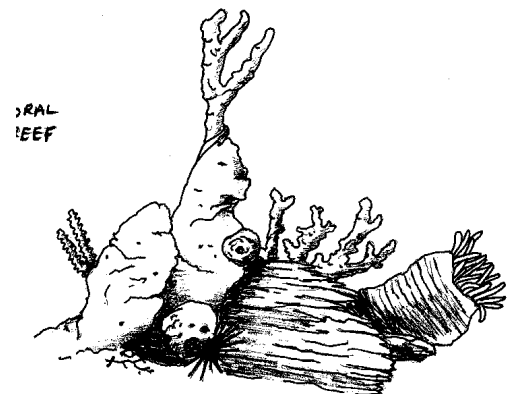
AQUARIUM TRIVIA

While visiting the aquarium, students can complete their search or trivia page. Older students will find the answers by reading (or having a chaperone read) the interpretive panels by the exhibits. (The exhibits are listed in italics on the worksheet.) The younger students can circle the aquarium animals they find during their visit.



TURTLE QUEST

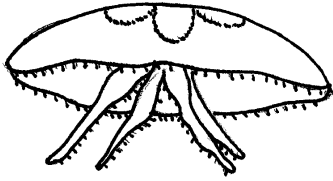
Sea turtles are reptiles that have adapted to spending their entire life at sea. Only the females come ashore to lay eggs. Sea turtles have a shell that is streamlined and flippers for swimming. Many sea turtles are endangered. Some of the problems sea turtles face include: natural predators, boats, drift nets, nesting habitat destruction caused by shore line development, poachers and pollution. The Turtle Quest maze is designed to give students an idea of the dangers that sea turtle hatchlings face.



Habitat Hunt

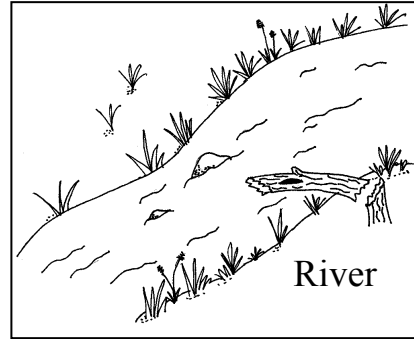
Match the animals with their habitat.

1.

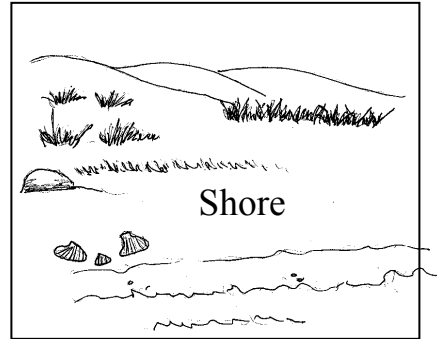


Moon Jelly

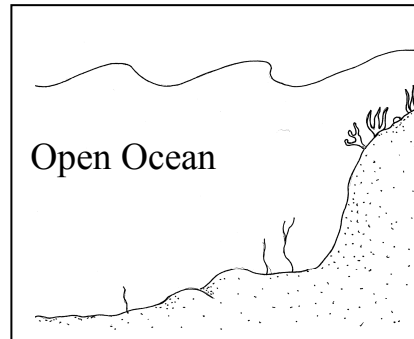
A.



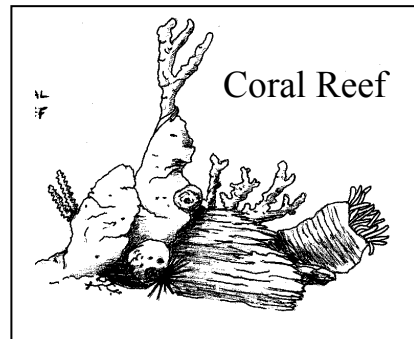
B.



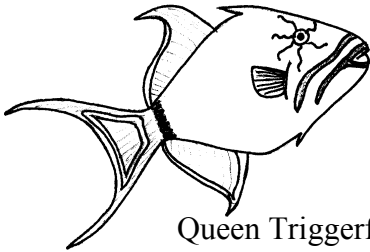
C.



D.

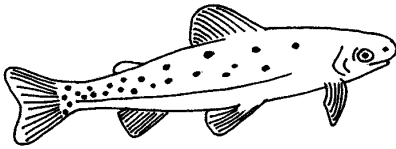


2.



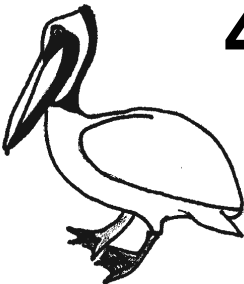
Queen Triggerfish

3.



Cutthroat Trout

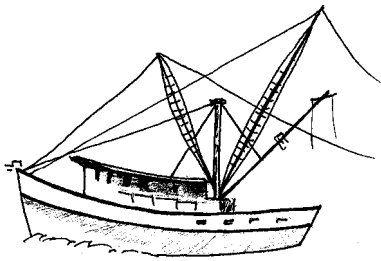
4.

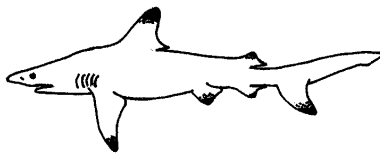


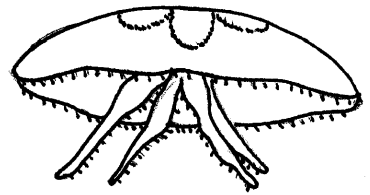
Brown Pelican

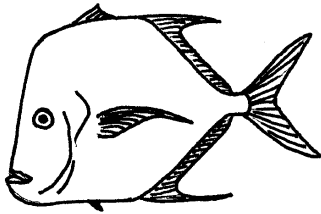
Aquarium Search

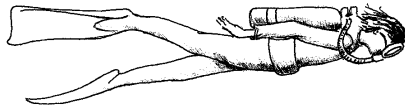
Circle each animal you find.
If you know the name, write it in.

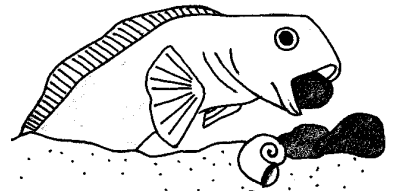


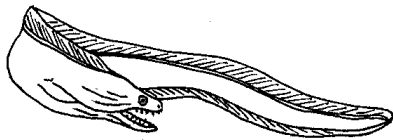


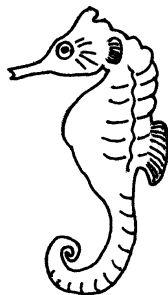


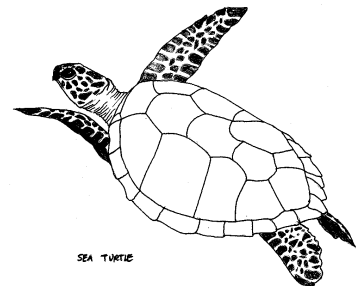












SEA TURTLE

Aquarium Trivia

Read the interpretive panels to find the answers.

Use the numbered letters to complete the message.

1. After hundreds of years of human settlement, the _____ is a changed river. (*Rio Grande Today*) 2

2. Only 1 in 10,000 sea _____ hatchlings survives to adulthood. (*Gulf Past*) 9

3. Jetties provide _____ for many rocky shore organisms formerly absent from the western Gulf of Mexico. 1 (*Jetty*)

4. The boat, the Candy M, was used to catch _____ in the Gulf of Mexico. (*Shrimp Boat*) 10

5. Rays, skates and sharks are cartilaginous fishes that lack the rigid skeleton of _____ fish. (*Shallows and Shores*) 11

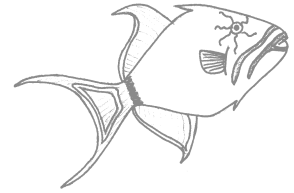
6. The Flower Garden Banks do not have flowers, but they do have brightly colored _____ . (*Coral Reef*) 3

7. The green moray eel is a _____ , not a snake. (*Eel cave*)

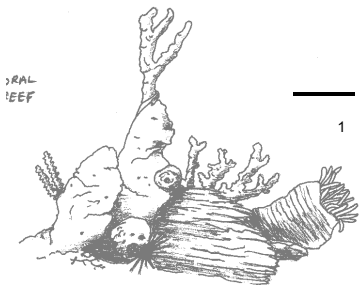
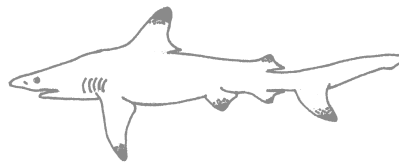
8. A jelly's body is over 95% _____ . (*Jellies*)

9. The _____ was wrecked off of Padre Island long ago and is now home to many fish. (*Inside the Wreck*) 7

10. Sharks range in size from six-inch long dwarf sharks to 50-foot-long _____ sharks. (*Ocean*) 6



MESSAGE:



_____ A K _____ A R _____ O _____ T _____

1
2
3
4
5
6
7

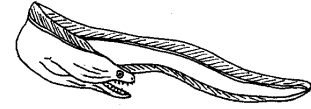
 W _____ T E _____ L A _____ E T!

8
9
10
11

Different is Good

Observe the listed aquatic animals.

Aquatic Animals



A. Sea turtle

F. Flounder

B. Porcupinefish

G. Lookdown

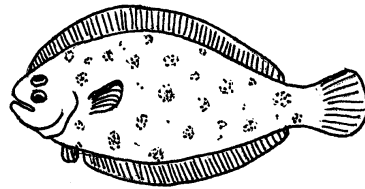
C. Moray eel

H. Angelfish

D. Hermit crab

I. Shark

E. Short bigeye



Adaptations

Choose the best matched adaptation/animal pair.

1. ____ **claws:** used for protection and catching food.
2. ____ **silver color:** blends in with shimmery light from the water's surface.
3. ____ **large eyes:** enable better sight in dark hiding places.
4. ____ **teeth:** predatory fish have sharp teeth for catching prey.
5. ____ **spines:** protect slow swimming fish from predators.
6. ____ **bright color combinations:** advertise for mates; camouflage in colorful habitats, disrupt body outlines to confuse predators.
7. ____ **flattened body:** easily hidden along the bottom.
8. ____ **flippers:** propel animal through the water (better than legs!)
9. ____ **ribbon-shaped body:** easily hides in narrow crevices or holes.



Turtle Quest

Sea turtles face many obstacles during their lives.

Only 1 in 10,000 survive to adulthood.

Can you help the sea turtle hatchling make it safely to adulthood?

