



Let's Go Diving!

PROGRAM GOALS

- Learn about how marine animals swim in the waters
- Discuss their traits, coloration, and other interesting observations

GRADES

3rd to 5th

MATERIALS

- Pencils
- Clipboards
- Youtube link

RECOMMENDED ASSESSMENT

- Grade worksheet based on completeness
- Assess students on appropriateness of words used to describe marine animals

Practice your students' observation skills as they learn about the Fort Wayne Children's Zoo marine animals and their habitat. Each animal will be doing something different in their habitat, so join us and help us identify each marine animal's behaviors. See below for a variety of questions to engage your student even further:

- Can you describe how they are swimming?
- Why do you think some marine species travel in groups?
- Can you describe their colors, patterns, and more?
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h-b8oFMG0Jo>

Have students complete the worksheet as they watch the video or observe the animals at the zoo. If at the zoo, give students five to ten minutes per animal to create observations of their chosen animal. Have students form small groups to discuss different behaviors and characteristics of their marine animals. Share different facts about the listed marine animals from the video to the discussion.

Be on the lookout for other aquatics animals' behaviors at the zoo! Share your lessons with the Fort Wayne Children' Zoo. Tag #fwkidszoo or email education@kidszoo.org to express how you used these supplemental activities!

Animals from the video:



Cownose Stingray: Their gray body is disc-like, with large, broad pectoral fins forming pointed, wing-like structures along either side. These rays school and migrate in large groups, sometimes up to thousands of individuals. They are known to swim near the surface with a flying motion, where their wingtips above the water look like a shark fin.

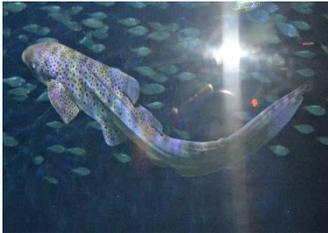
Clown Triggerfish: The top half is mostly black, with a yellow patch containing black shapes. The bottom half is black with large white spots. Their lips are bright orange. They need lots of space with plenty of places to hide. They can lock their dorsal fins upright, enabling them to wedge themselves into holes or crevices in the coral to safely spend the nights.



Moon Jelly: The translucent saucer-shaped body can have a slightly blue or pink tone depending on their diet. Long feeding arms grab food and bring it into the mouth, which is found in the center of the bottom of the bell. They float near the water surface, where they swim by pumping their bell-shaped body.

Swimming in the Sea

Blue Tang: The blue tang has a royal blue body, yellow tail, and black “palette” design. It’s an oval-shaped fish with a hard beak-like mouth that scrapes algae from rocks. They always are on the move, and they use their pectoral fins for swimming and changing directions in the water.



Zebra Shark: The shark is named for the stripes it displays while young, but as they mature, the pattern changes from stripes to spots. They are also known as “carpet sharks” because of their bottom-dwelling behavior. They like to spend most of their time near the ocean floor, and they’re super easygoing.

Lionfish: The beautiful fish is maroon in color with brown and white stripes. The 18 spikes on the back of the lionfish may be impressive, but they are also venomous. They only use their venom in self-defense, not for hunting. They can expand their stomachs up to 30 times bigger than normal to eat more fish and invertebrates. They gently wave their fan-like fins to drift through the sea.



Emperor Angelfish: Their bodies have yellow and blue horizontal stripes that stretch from behind the gills to the tail, which is yellow. Most angelfish swim alone, and they love to hide in caves. They often use their caudal fins (tail) to propel themselves through the water.

Giant Grouper: This grouper is one of the biggest bony fish that swims around the reefs. The large, thick, elongated body is usually in brown to grey color covered in spots. The grouper likes to swim by itself and stay in the same area. It’ll use its caudal fin (tail) to help it slowly swim around the sea.



Harlequin Tuskfish: They have a bright orange color with white stripes, and they have a blue tusk-like teeth. It enjoys swimming around the area to search for invertebrates in the area. They often use their pectoral fin help the fish swim forward, and the caudal fin will occasionally assist with swimming as well.

Lookdown: They have shimmery silver color with a blunt forehead. The silver color allows them to avoid predators by reflecting the light into their eyes. It has long dorsal and anal fins, but they use their caudal fin to propel forward in the sea. These fish often swim in small groups. The fish received its name from how they appear to be looking down its nose like a snob as they swim in the sea.





Swimming in the Sea

Name: _____

I saw these marine animals:

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 4. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 5. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 6. _____ |

Marine animals often have their own unique ways of swimming or what they look like. Choose three animals and describe what they look like and how they're moving around.

1. Name of animal:

2. Name of animal:

3. Name of animal:

What are some differences and similarities between the three animals you observed?
