



January Homeschool Day

Inside:

- New Year: Pledge to the Planet
- Coral Conservation
- Bubble Reef
- Sea to Shore Aquarium Scavenger Hunt
- Animal Observation



Pledge to the Planet

Happy New Year! Create a pledge to the planet. This is something that you will pledge to do all year to help protect the planet.

Write, Draw, Have Fun!

“Find my Fishes!” Questionnaire

After building your own coral reef, you will analyze a different group/student’s coral reef. There should be 5 different colored “fish” hiding in this group/student’s coral reef. As you find them (without taking apart their coral reef) answer the following questions:

1. Which fish was the least difficult to find?
 - a. Why do you think this is so?

2. Which fish was the most difficult to find?
 - a. Why do you think this is so?

3. What does this coral reef have that yours does not?

4. What is an improvement you would make to this coral reef?

5. Why are coral reefs so important?



Bubble Reef!

A single coral is called a Polyp. One way this coral reproduces is by releasing little coral larvae that float through the water and eventually settle on the ocean floor to grow and develop into a polyp. Through this process there are predators and factors that will keep the coral larvae from surviving.

In the activity students will use bubbles to represent coral larvae and watch as they travel through facing predators and other harmful factors. After participating in the activity and answer the following questions.

1. When you blew the bubbles where did all the corals go?

2. What happened to the coral if there were too many predators?

3. What happened to the corals if there were no predators?

4. What was the best place for the coral larvae to land and grow?

5. Today I learned that _____

Sea to Shore Aquarium Scavenger Hunt

Fill in the blank(s) and answer the questions. Look at signs, and ask staff questions!

1. The Moray Eel has _____ sets of jaws.
2. It is estimated that the Megalodon went extinct _____.
3. The _____ plays a role in the migration of humpback and north atlantic right whales, as well as the leatherback sea turtle.
4. The _____ has 8 arms and can fit into small spaces.
5. _____ are rocky and sandy pools formed by high tide.
6. _____ cover less than 1% of the oceans floor.
7. Corals are relatives of anemones and _____.
8. _____ and _____ are threats to corals.
9. Can you name something that you can do to help protect our coral reefs?

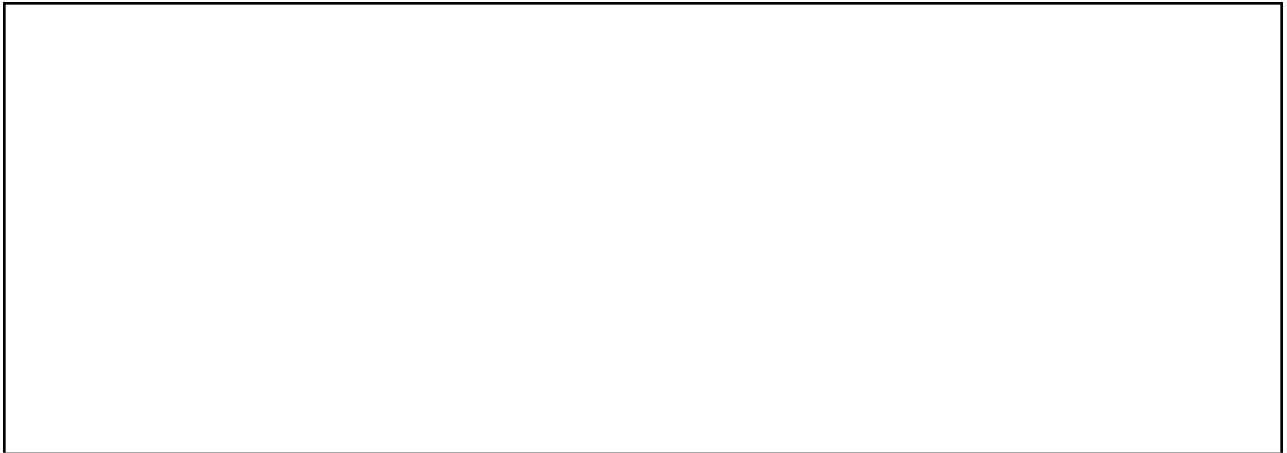
Animal Observation Project

Questions and Activities:

- Choose one animal at Marineland on which to do a physical and behavioral observation. You may pick any animal you'd like, but you must stick with that individual, so be sure you've identified a distinguishing characteristic about it that will help you keep it in view, even if it lives with a group of other animals that look just like it.

PHYSICAL OBSERVATION

- Draw your animal in the space below:



- Conclusions:
 - What distinguishing characteristic did you use to identify this animal?

 - What physical adaptations do you see on your animal that help it to survive in its environment? (Body shape? Coloration?)

 - What do you think these adaptations help the animal to do? (Avoid predators, Catch prey?)

BEHAVIORAL OBSERVATION



- Observe your animal for three minutes. Fill out the following behavioral observation chart. Put a check mark next to the behavior every time you see it. If you see any behaviors other than the ones listed, please add them in the blank spaces provided:

<u>BEHAVIOR SEEN</u>	<u>MINUTE 1</u>	<u>MINUTE 2</u>	<u>MINUTE 3</u>
Eating			
Chasing			
Hiding			
Playing			
Fighting			
Sleeping			

- Conclusions:
 - What behavior did you see your animal do the most?

What behavior did you see your animal do the least?

What kind of conclusions can you make from your observations? (Keep in mind that your three minute observation does not represent a full day of the animal's life.)

Do you think their behavior is different depending on time of day?
Time of year?