

Bubble Observations

Activity: To be conducted by the classroom teacher prior to, during, and after a class visit to the Aquarium.

Goal: Students will learn facts about various ocean animals based on observation and investigation.

Louisiana Science Content Standards and Benchmarks

SI-E-A1 – Asking appropriate questions about organisms and event in the environment

SI-E-A2 – Planning and/or designing and conducting a scientific investigation

SI-E-A6 – Communicating observations and experiments in oral and written formats

LS-E-A1 – Identifying the needs of plants and animals, based on age-appropriate recorded observations

LS-E-A4 – Recognizing that there is great diversity among organisms

LS-E-C1 – Examining the habitats of plants and animals and determining how basic needs are met within each habitat

LS-E-C2 – Describing how the features of some plants and animals enable them to live in specific habitats

Materials:

Bubble packs

Colors or colored pencils

Various colors of construction paper

Sandwich size Ziploc bags

Preparation:

Create your class bubble packs by cutting out circles of various sizes from the construction paper. You will need enough so that each Ziploc bag has 5-6 circles of various colors and sizes. For your visit to the Aquarium, the class will need to be divided into small groups of about 5 students, each group will need to have a chaperone.

Procedure:

Talk with students about how different animals live in different places, need different things to survive, eat different foods, etc. Some books about animals might be a good way to encourage discussion.

Divide students into their field trip groups, and tell them that each group will be given an animal. Each group is to study and find out about their animal

while at the Aquarium. They are to record their findings on the bubbles in their packs (chaperones may need to help with this).

Choose Aquarium animals to assign to groups from the list below:

Sand Tiger Shark

Alligator

Sea Otter

Anaconda

Paddle Fish

Sea Horse

Lion Fish

Penguin (Black footed or Rockhopper)

Green Sea Turtle

Sawfish

Moon Jellies

Poison Dart Frog

Tell students their bubble observations will need to answer the following questions:

- Where does your animal live?
- What body parts does it have? (feet, fins, claws, beaks, etc.)
- What does your animal eat?
- How does your animal move?

At the Aquarium:

Visit the Aquarium. Use bubble packs for each chaperoned group. Have them split up, find their animal and make their observations and record their findings.

Back in the Classroom:

Have each student draw a picture of their animal and arrange each groups bubble facts around their drawings. Display each group's work, and have the children talk about their animals.

Extension Idea:

Have students play Bubble-tration (like concentration). Each student draws a picture of an ocean animal (ex. sea urchin) on an index card and then makes one "bubble observation" card (ex. purple spines). Teacher places all cards face down. Students take turns by turning up one bubble observation card and one animal card to correctly match an observation with an animal card.