

Discovery Book

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

Goal: Students will investigate various animals in the Aquarium to discover and categorize which ones are omnivores, carnivores, or herbivores.

Louisiana Science Content Standards and Benchmarks

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

LS-E-B2 – Observing, comparing, and grouping plants and animals according to likenesses and/or differences

SE-E-A2 - Understanding the components of a food chain

Materials:

Copies of “Aquarium Discovery Book”

Pencils

Books and magazines featuring animals (Zoobooks are great for this).

Preparation:

Make enough copies of the discovery book so that each child has their own copy. It would be a good idea to book your field trip so that students can observe the 1pm Gulf exhibit feeding on either Tuesdays or Thursdays. All exhibit animals are fed at that time, and there are some good examples of carnivores and omnivores.

Activity:

Prior to your class visit to the Aquarium, discuss with students the different kinds of animals in the Aquarium, and how some of them are carnivores, some are herbivores, and some are omnivores. Talk about how making observations of animals and studying what they look like (especially their mouths and teeth) can tell you about what kinds of food they eat. Use pictures of animals from books and magazines to help in the discussion. Contact the Aquarium Education Department at tleblanc@auduboninstitute.org to make arrangements for a presentation featuring animal skulls and teeth during your visit.

At the Aquarium, distribute the discovery books and pencils. As students tour Aquarium, they will need to identify and record one example of each animal category (carnivore, omnivore, herbivore). They need to draw a picture of the animal, draw what its teeth and/or mouth looks like, and foods that animal might eat.

Back in the classroom, review discovery books with students. Have students report on their findings to the class.

Extension Idea

Once students complete their reports, ask them to arrange their animals into a basic food chain. Then use the entire class' findings into a food web chart. Display chart in classroom.