



## Student Guide Book Grades 3-5

Dear Teachers:

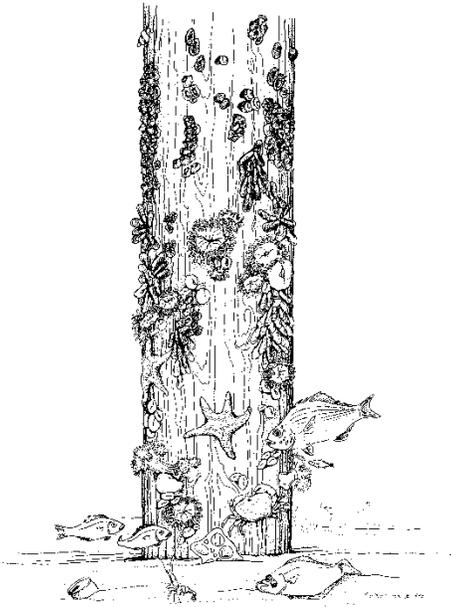
We are so excited you chose the Oregon Coast Aquarium for your field trip. Use the activities and questions in this book with your students to make the most of your visit. Make a double-sided copy of this guidebook for each of your students for the day of your trip. All of the activities can be conducted in the galleries and exhibits throughout the Aquarium. There are also trained volunteers onsite that are more than happy to help students and answer any question they might have.

Keep in mind:

- Students and chaperones must remain together at all times
- Please don't use our tanks as a writing surface – they are easily damaged.
- Over 500 different species of animals live here. Please be aware that tapping on the outside of their tanks won't make them come closer; it will probably scare them into hiding.

Thank you for coming to the Oregon Coast Aquarium!

# Sandy Shores



Find the "On the Pilings" exhibit in the middle of the room. This exhibit demonstrates what it looks like **below** the docks on the piers.

- Name some of the animals that share this habitat.
- What purpose do the pier pilings serve for fish and invertebrates?
- How many pieces of trash can you find in this tank? \_\_\_\_\_ What can you do to keep trash out of the ocean?

# Rocky Shores

A HABITAT is a place where living things find shelter, a place to live, food, water and air. Choose one animal in the Rocky Shores gallery and describe what things it needs to survive in the habitat where it lives.

Animal: \_\_\_\_\_

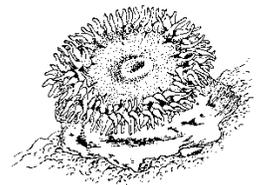
Shelter (where do I hide?):

Food (what do I eat?):

Protection (how do I care for myself and my young?):

Water (what does the tide do for me?)

Air (where does the air in the water come from?):



# Coastal Waters

Plants use the sun's energy to grow. Animals eat plants and other living things to get energy to grow. Food chains show this movement of energy. Each arrow represents the energy moving from one step to the next. Can you complete the food chains below?

Sun → Phytoplankton → Salmon → \_\_\_\_\_  
(tiny plants)

Sun → Phytoplankton → \_\_\_\_\_ → \_\_\_\_\_

Create your own food chain!

An ADAPTATION is something a plant or an animal has to help it survive in its environment (like wings or sharp teeth). Find your favorite animal in the exhibit. Draw it in this space and label some of its adaptations!

# Secrets of Shipwrecks

## Aviary

Find a quiet spot near one of the pools. Stand quietly and watch the birds. Seabirds spend most of the year living out on the open ocean. The only time they come into land is during breeding season, in the summer. Because of this, they have special ADAPTATIONS, to help them live life on the open ocean.

Sketch the foot of a puffin.  
How does this shape help it survive?

Find the "Who's Who in the Aviary" sign

Describe how birds look different during breeding season and non-breeding season.

## Marine Mammals

At the Aquarium you will find three types of marine mammals: sea otters, seals and sea lions.

- List three things you already know about marine mammals?
- List three things you would like to know about marine mammals?

Can you answer these questions by observing these animals here at the Aquarium? Give it a try!

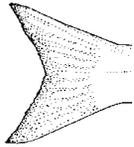


The shape of a fish's tail can tell you a lot about that fish and how it moves. Identify a fish with the following tail shapes...



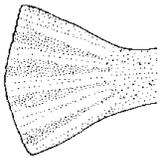
A stiff, quarter-moon, **crescent** tail is best for the fastest swimmers.

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A **forked** tail is good for swimming most of the time, with the deepest forks on the most active fishes.

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A short, **square** tail indicates a lifestyle that needs short bursts of speed rather than continuous fast swimming.

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## Try this!

Stop and sit for a few minutes. Imagine what it would be like if you were a fish in this type of habitat.

What other plants and animals live with you?

Where would you live? In the kelp? In the rocks? Why?

What would you do all day?

## When you get home...

Think about all that you saw, heard and touched at the Oregon Coast Aquarium. Write a short story describing a day in the life of your favorite animal using the things you observed and learned along the way!

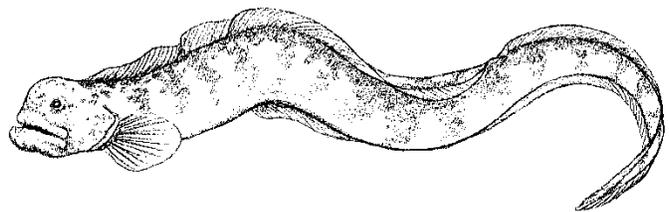
What animal are you?

What is it like where you live?

Are there specific animals and plants that share your habitat?

Where do you find your food?

What do you have or do to protect yourself?



Thanks for visiting us! Come back soon!