

Virtual Career Exploration



Teacher's Guide

Topic: Aquarium Careers

Grade level: 6-12

Aligned Standards

Oregon Career Connected Learning Framework Stages:

Career Awareness
(Guest Speaker)

Career Exploration
(Informational Interview)

Ocean Literacy Principles:

Principle #6. The ocean and humans are inextricably interconnected.

b. The ocean provides foods, medicines, and mineral and energy resources. It supports jobs and national economies, serves as a highway for transportation of goods and people, and plays a role in national security.

Ever wonder what it's like to work at an Aquarium? Get the inside scoop from a staff member! Learn about a variety of jobs and skills, see how our staff care for the animals, and participate in a live Q&A.



Program at a glance

Students will learn about a variety of aquarium careers and get the chance to ask a staff member about their job.

Objectives

Students will be able to:

- List examples of aquarium careers
- Describe one pathway to working at an aquarium
- Find volunteer opportunities at Oregon Coast Aquarium
- Explore other resources about aquarium/marine science careers

Skills

Students will gain expertise in:

- Interviewing a professional about their career
- Researching career information

Program features:

- Introduction to a variety of careers at Oregon Coast Aquarium
- Behind-the-scenes videos of animal care
- Live Q&A with Aquarium staff member



Extension activities

Use these prompts to facilitate further discovery before or after your Aquarium program.

In the Classroom

- Before the program, brainstorm questions to ask an Aquarium employee. What do you want to know about their job? If possible, send student questions ahead of time to help our staff members prepare for the Q&A.
- Explore more Oregon Coast Aquarium careers. Watch virtual job shadow videos at <https://www.virtualjobshadow.com/partners/oregon-coast-aquarium/>.

At Oregon Coast Aquarium

- Practice sketching! Careers in aquariums, marine science, and many other fields require keen observation skills. Choose an Aquarium exhibit or [live cam](#) to observe. Sketching is a great way to practice observation skills and is used by artists and non-artists alike. Pay attention to details like body shape, color, and markings. Do you observe any behaviors or interactions? Write and draw what you notice.
- Be an educator! Talk to an Aquarium volunteer or check out [Oregon Coast Aquarium's YouTube channel](#) to learn more about a topic that interests you. Then share what you learned! Tell a friend, plan a presentation, or post on social media!



Get Outside

- Learn more about animal training. Trainers often use positive reinforcement to reward animals for specific behaviors. The animal learns that those behaviors earn a reward. Choose one student to be the “trainer” and another student to be the “animal.” Without any explanation or gestures, can the trainer use small rewards (e.g. skittles) to train a desired behavior?
- Become a community scientist. In addition to caring for the animals at the Aquarium, our staff participates in research. They collect data at the Aquarium and in the field and share it with other researchers and organizations. Did you know that you can do field work too and share your findings with real scientists? Use [iNaturalist](#) to explore outdoors and submit photos of plants and animals. That data, which plants and animals live where, will be available to scientists all over the world!