

Water Droplets

Quick Teaching Ideas for your Field Trip

1. Practice those research skills! Using the “Who’s Who” section of the AquaGuide, assign each student (group of students) a plant or animal. Using library books and the Internet, learn more about the plant or animal. Create a classroom field guide or present oral reports. Not only will your students learn more about the Aquarium, but they’ll take time to look at the exhibits carefully as they search for “their” animal or plant.

Further extension: Challenge students to locate their animal, plant or habitat in the Aquarium. Observe it. Ask them to note a behavior exhibited by the animal. Did they notice anything about the animal or plant learned during their research?

2. Become an Aquarium tour guide! Assign groups of students to each exhibit. Using information from the teacher guide for ideas, students should research the habitat, plants and animals. When your class visits the Aquarium, each group of students is responsible for “teaching” other members of the class about the exhibit. Suggestions? Either do a quick presentation before entering the exhibit or station group members at various locations throughout the exhibit to focus on teaching about a specific plant or animal.
3. We’re all connected! As the students visit the Aquarium, ask them to choose their favorite habitat. Make notes about the plants and animals found in the habitat, focusing on their favorite animal. In class, challenge students to use their notes to write a diary entry from the point of view of an animal in the exhibit.
4. Looking for an open-ended activity for your students? Ask students to find their favorite animal in the Aquarium. Draw and describe the animal. Make at least one observation about its habitat and its behavior. Is there something you’d like to learn about this animal? List at least one question to research back in class.

General Questions

These questions can be assigned to students and answered at virtually any exhibit throughout the Aquarium. They make great in-class discussion questions after your visit. You’ll be amazed at the variety of responses!

1. Find an animal that has an unusual body shape and describe it. How do you think this shape helps the animal in the wild?
2. Choose one animal and list the adaptations it has for escaping predators.
3. Choose one animal that lives on land and another that lives in water. List their adaptations for moving in their environments.
4. Find and describe two animals that have the ultimate in camouflage. How does its color help it blend into its habitat?
5. Find and describe one plant adapted to living in the water. Can you find any structures that help it survive in a watery habitat?