



LEARNING LABS FISH FILES

Students investigate the characteristics of different fishes and use a magnifying lens for an even closer look at one of them. Using observation and data collection, students conduct experiments to discover why fishes look the way they do and how they are adapted to their surroundings.

GRADE LEVEL: 3-5 | **CAPACITY:** 35 students | **DURATION:** 50 minutes

KEY CONCEPTS

Adaptations, body parts, movement, habitats, structure and function

SKILLS

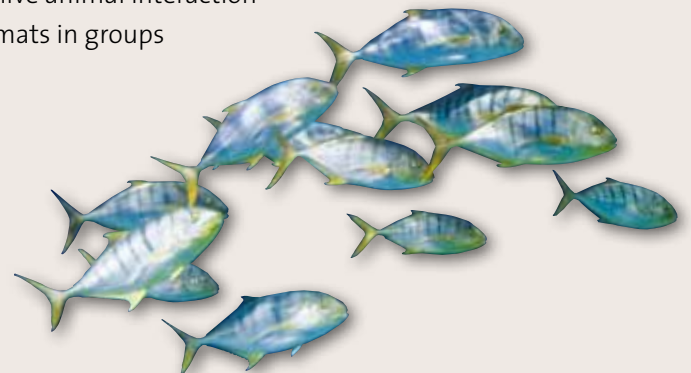
Data collection, observation, teamwork, presentation, experimentation

IL STATE LEARNING STANDARDS

- 11.A.2b, 11.A.2c, 11.A.2d, 11.A.2e
- 12.B.2a, 12.B.2b

WHAT TO EXPECT FROM THE LEARNING EXPERIENCE

- Students make observations and predictions about fishes
- Students work and collaborate in groups and present findings
- Teachers and chaperones may participate
- Opportunity for live animal interaction
- Students sit on mats in groups



For more information contact
studentprograms@sheddquarium.org



FURTHER EXPLORATION

Shedd Educational Adventures Explorer's Guide and Build-a-Fish

<http://sea.sheddquarium.org/sea/>

Fishbase

<http://www.fishbase.org>

Build a Fish

<http://sv.berkeley.edu/showcase/flash/fish.html>

PBS.org

Treasure of the Great Barrier Reef

<http://www.pbs.org/teachers>

Florida Museum of Natural History Ichthyology

<http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/fish/Education/education.htm>



CONNECTIONS TO THE EXHIBITS

The aquarium is home to fishes from all around the world. Below are suggestions to help focus your field trip at the aquarium, three exhibits to visit and suggestions to facilitate learning in them.

Islands and Lakes Gallery

This gallery features many species of freshwater fishes. Have students look at the habitats in the different exhibits. Are the habitats the same? What is different about them? Are the fishes the same in each of the habitats? The students will notice that the fishes are adapted to their different habitats. Have students investigate through observation what some of those adaptations are.

Caribbean Reef

Reefs boast the most diverse populations of fishes of any ecosystem on Earth. Take time to observe the different fishes. Students will notice that many of these fishes move differently. What makes them move differently? Is it body shape or the tail shape? Do they move different body parts? Discuss with students how shape affects movement and movement affects behavior.

Wild Reef

Sharks are fish, but do your students know that? Gather your students in front of the large shark exhibit to compare characteristics of sharks and reef fishes. What physical features do they have in common? What internal features do they have in common? Remind students that fishes have fins, scales, gills and a backbone, and they are cold-blooded.

CONNECTIONS TO THE CLASSROOM

- In the classroom, students can explore fishes by creating an exhibit. Ask students to each pick a fish species to research and then require students to design an exhibit to meet their fish's needs. After students create their exhibits, ask them if all the fishes can live together. Do the fishes need different habitats? What else should be included in the exhibit?
- After your Shedd visit, let students use their imaginations and information from their field trip to design new species of fishes. Each student should include body shape, mouth position, tail shape and coloration in his or her drawing as well as create a story about the fish explaining the reasons behind each adaptation.



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