



LEARNING LABS

EXPLORING ANATOMY: SQUID DISSECTION

Examine the morphology of a squid during a student-driven, hands-on dissection. Students ask questions and work together to answer them by identifying parts of a squid and exploring the many adaptations that help this invertebrate be the predator and not the prey in its habitat.

GRADE LEVEL: 6-8 | **CAPACITY:** 30 students | **DURATION:** 90 minutes

KEY CONCEPTS

Adaptations, predator/prey relationships, physiology, anatomy, taxonomy

SKILLS

Scientific investigation and method, collaboration and communication, teamwork, presentation, inquiry

IL STATE LEARNING STANDARDS

- 11.A.3a, 3f, 3g
- 12.A.3c
- 12.B.3b
- 13.A.3c
- 13.B.3c

WHAT TO EXPECT FROM THE LEARNING EXPERIENCE

- Students work in pairs using dissection tools to explore squid anatomy
- Students generate their own questions and pursue investigations to answer them
- Teacher and chaperones may participate
- Students use technology such as SMART Boards and multimedia resources
- Students present their findings to each other



For more information contact
studentprograms@sheddaquarium.org



FURTHER EXPLORATION

Shedd Educational Adventures Scientific sketching and classifying Shedd's collection

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

Encyclopedia of Life

<http://www.eol.org/>

Discovery Education *The Amazing Octopus and Seasonal Seas*

<http://school.discoveryeducation.com/lessonplans/>

PBS.org *Spectacular Squid*

<http://www.pbs.org/kqed/oceanadventures/educators/>

Baltimore Aquarium squid lab

http://www.aqua.org/downloads/pdf/outreach_squid_lab_teacher_booklet_sept_2005.pdf



CONNECTIONS TO THE EXHIBITS

Many animals in the aquarium are related to the squid. Locate the three examples below and explore how or why they are related to facilitate a more focused field trip.

Wild Reef

View the nautilus, a relative of the squid. Students can compare the nautilus to a squid, observing similarities and differences in their characteristics. How are they related? How do they compare to other animals in the aquarium?

Oceans Gallery

The giant Pacific octopus is a relative of the squid, but differs in many ways. Discuss why scientists would group these animals together. If the octopus is not visible, be sure to note the time of day. How could that be important? What does this tell you about this animal's behavior?

Tide Pool Touch

A squid relative called a chiton lives here. Try to locate it inside the tide pool. Students can touch it as well, helping them use their other senses to identify this strange animal's characteristics. How does it interact with its environment? How does it find its food?

CONNECTIONS TO THE CLASSROOM

- Prepare students for a dissection by exploring the external and internal anatomy of other animals. It's useful to include animals from different orders, such as insects, reptiles, birds, mammals, etc. This does not have to be conducted with specimens; pictures can be a great tool.
- After the field trip, follow up with students by classifying animals based on external and internal anatomy or lead students in a dissection of a different animal. What similarities and differences did the animals have? Use this to emphasize the differences between observation and inference. Explore the idea that what you see and what you know can be two different things.

