EXPLORER PRIMARY TRAIL

Name: ___________________

School: ___________________
Welcome

Use your Activity Pack as you explore the aquarium today and learn all about our amazing animals! The pack is split into the four zones of the aquarium: Plymouth Sound, British Coasts, Atlantic Ocean and Blue Planet.

You will embark on a scavenger hunt to find and identify various marine creatures throughout the aquarium, learning fun facts along the way. From local rockpool creatures to colourful coral reefs, get hands on and discover what's beneath the waves!

If you need any help around the aquarium today, please ask a Ranger for help. They are happy to talk to you about any of the animals and answer any questions! The Rangers are wearing navy blue t-shirts or fleeces.
Plymouth Sound

Begin your scavenger hunt on the shores of the Plymouth Sound National Marine Park.

The scientific name for an animal's home is a HABITAT. All these animals live in rockpool or shallow water habitats around Britain's coastline.

Animals are suited to living in their habitat. Anything about an animal's body or behaviour that helps them to survive and stay safe in their habitat is called an ADAPTATION. E.g. A weever fish lives buried in the sand. They have spines on their back which sting animals that touch them. These spines are an adaptation.

1. Can you name 3 other examples of Ocean habitats?

1. Rockpool

2. ____________________________

3. ____________________________

4. ____________________________
2. Below are some descriptions of rockpool animals. Discover the animal and write their name next to the adaptation.

My skeleton is on the outside of my body, meaning it’s called an **EXOSKELETON**. This acts like a suit of armour to help protect me. I have two types of claws: one for crushing food and another for cutting it into smaller pieces.

I haven’t got any bones, meaning I am an **INVERTEBRATE**. I cannot move quickly, but I use my tentacles to sting my prey as it swims past me.

I have tube feet underneath my arms to stop me getting washed away by the tide. If I lose an arm, I can re-grow it. When I eat, I throw up my stomach and digest my food outside of my body – yuck!
3. Find our ray and shark egg cases. These are sometimes called mermaid’s purses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>How many egg cases are hanging up inside the tank?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can you identify which species the egg cases have come from?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can you find any young rays or sharks that have hatched in the tank?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What do they look like?</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

You can find egg cases washed up on the beach. Next time you visit the beach, try and find some for yourself!

If you find any, you can use the Sharks’ Trust Great Eggcase Hunt app to find out what species they are, and help scientists learn about sharks around the UK.
4. Can you spot these animals around the Plymouth Sound exhibit? Tick the box next to their photo when you’ve spotted them!

- Weever Fish
- Grey Mullet
- Snipe Fish
- Sea Urchin
- Boar Fish
- Starfish

5. Can you find our edible crab hiding in the rockpool? Find out why they have this unusual name. You can ask a ranger if you are stuck! Tick the box when you’ve completed this challenge.
6. There is so much to discover in the Ocean! Can you think of 3 more activities you could do to explore the Plymouth Sound National Marine Park or your local blue space?

1. Snorkelling

2. _______________________________________

3. _______________________________________

4. _______________________________________

Did you know...

Lobsters can communicate by releasing urine from near their eyes. This is how they ‘talk’ to each other!
British Coasts

Make your way through the ‘British Coasts’ archway and walk down the ramp.

7. Can you name two of the model animals hanging from the ceiling?

8. Staying in our local waters but moving a little deeper, we are now looking at animals that live in super seagrass! Pipefish have long slim bodies which help them to **camouflage** against the blades of seagrass. This means they can blend in and hide from predators.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>How many pipefish can you count?</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Seagrass is an important habitat for many animals. However, it is under threat.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can you find out what some of these threats are?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
9. Continue your journey down to the Eddystone tank. These animals can be found around Britain's coasts. Use the species identification signs to match the animal's name to the description.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Animal</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Conger Eel</td>
<td>These fish all start as orange females. When they are old enough, some of the females will turn into males and change colour to blue!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bull Huss</td>
<td>This shark can grow to 1m long. It has a spotty pattern and nasal flaps that look like fangs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cuckoo Wrasse</td>
<td>These animals are flattened versions of sharks. They have eyes on the top of their body and have good camouflage.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rays</td>
<td>This fish has a long, snake-like body. They can grow up to 2m long and spend most of their time sleeping in caves!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Did you know...

Small Spotted Catsharks are the smallest and most common shark found around British Coasts. They lay eggs cases or mermaid's purses, like those you may have seen in the Plymouth Sound exhibit!
10. Looking into the Eddystone Tank, can you name some animals that are well camouflaged? (There are two identification boards either side of the tank to help you find the names of the animals!)

Did you know...

Jellyfish aren't really fish! They don't have any bones, blood, or a brain.

11. Can you do an impression of our jellyfish? Tick the box when you've completed this challenge.
Atlantic Ocean

As you walk through the jellyfish and down the stairs, you will find yourself in our Jawsome Exhibit! You will see facts on the walls all about sharks and how they're well adapted to living in their Ocean habitat.

12. Can you use the information about sharks in the Jawsome Exhibit to help you to finish the sentences below?

- Sharks and rays have a light, bendy skeleton made from ______________

- All rays and some sharks have holes above their eyes to help them breathe. These are called ________________

- Sharks have an amazing sixth sense that allows them to sense electricity in the water. This is called _________________

- The largest shark in the world is called the _________________

- There are no species of sharks known to eat plants. This means they are all _________________
Sharks also have something called **COUNTERSHADING**. They are darker on top so animals swimming above won’t see the shark against the dark Ocean floor. Their tummies are much lighter, so animals below looking up won’t be able to spot them against the bright Ocean surface.

13. Can you colour in the shark below so that it has countershading?

Continue your journey back up the stairs to the top of the Atlantic Ocean tank.
14. Can you spot these animals in the Atlantic Ocean tank? Tick the box next to their photo when you've spotted them!

**Sand Tiger Shark**
Sand Tiger Sharks can grow up to 3.2m long!

**Green Sea Turtle**
Adult green turtles are herbivores, meaning they only eat plants and no meat.

**Sand Bar Shark**
These sharks are opportunistic feeders and eat many kinds of food, like fish, squid, and crabs.

**Southern Stingray**
These rays defend themselves with venomous stinging barbs.

**Zebra Shark**
These sharks are born with stripes that make them look like venomous sea snakes for survival.

**Eagle Ray**
These rays have a pointed snout to help them forage in the sand for prey.
Blue Planet

Journey through the bioluminescent corridor and arrive at the Blue Planet area of the aquarium.

15. Fish in coral reefs tend to be colourful so that they can blend in with their surroundings! Can you spot these patterns in the Biozone exhibit? Tick the box next to their photo when you’ve spotted them and use the information next to the tank to find out their names.

Did you know...
Clownfish are initially born as males but can change into females as they grow older. They live among anemones, protecting themselves with slimy mucus to avoid being stung and hiding from predators.
16. Sadly, there are many threats in the Ocean that put habitats and animals in danger. Can you find and circle the threats in the picture below?

17. Choose two of the threats you can see in the picture above. Explain how your chosen threats could be a problem for the Ocean, or the plants and animals that live there. Can you suggest a solution for each problem?

1. .................................................................................................................................

........................................................................................................................................

2. .................................................................................................................................

........................................................................................................................................
18. Fortunately, there are many ways we can help the ocean. Tick two things below that you will try at home.

- Don't litter and always put waste in the correct bin.
- Reduce how much plastic you use, re-use plastic items where possible, and recycle plastic waste. For example, you can get a reusable water bottle to take your water to school in.
- Reduce how much water you waste by turning off the tap when brushing your teeth, having shorter showers, and not having baths very often.
- Reducing how much meat you eat and having more vegetarian or vegan meals.
- Switch off lights and electrical appliances at the plug (e.g. TVs, Play Station, X Box and computers) when you're not using them.
- Walk, cycle, or catch the bus where possible, instead of taking the car.
- Tell other people about your visit to the National Marine Aquarium today and share your knowledge about how we can help the Ocean!

You have completed the Explorer trail!!

CONGRATULATIONS

We hope to see you soon!