**New England Aquarium Field Trip for Ecology Students**

**Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Part 1: Habitat Aquarium Scavenger Hunt**

Every animal needs a place to live, and different animals need different types of places; different habitats. In the Aquarium our exhibits show habitats from all over the world.

Find ***three*** different habitats in the Aquarium. Take a picture of the habitats with your phone and then print them out. You can either digitally incorporate them in each section below, cut and glue them on later, or staple them to the back of this packet.

**1st Habitat:**

1. What is the name of the habitat?
2. Name at least 2 animals that live in this habitat?
3. Where in the world would you find this habitat?

**2nd Habitat:**

1. What is the name of the habitat?
2. Name at least 2 animals that live in this habitat?
3. Where in the world would you find this habitat?

**3rd Habitat:**

1. What is the name of the habitat?
2. Name at least 2 animals that live in this habitat?
3. Where in the world would you find this habitat?

**Part 2: Animal Behavior Aquarium Scavenger Hunt**

To learn about animals, scientists need to make careful observations of their behaviors.

* Choose **one** animal anywhere in the aquarium and observe it carefully.
* Watch your animal for at least ***5 minutes*** and answer the questions below.

Sketch the animal here or take a picture and glue here:

1. What’s the name of animal ?

2. What habitat does this animal live in?

**Observations – Answer after at least 5 minutes of observations**

1. What did your animal do during the first minute?
2. What did your animal do during the second and third minutes?
3. What did the animal do when it encountered other animals?
4. Did the animal do anything that surprised you?
5. What did you see that you would have missed if you had observed for a shorter time?

**Analysis**

1. How much time would it take to observe an animal and become an expert on every aspect of its behavior?
2. Is it easier to observe land animals or ocean animals? Why?
3. What are some of the problems marine biologists face in learning about ocean animals? What are some solutions?

**Part 3: Visiting Exhibits**

Most people visit the aquarium to take in all of the interesting plants and animals that can found all around the world’s aquatic ecosystems. Follow the specific directions for each task below and answer the questions.

1. Find the **New Balance Foundation Marine Mammal Center**. Here you will find Northern fur seals and sea lions. Write down ***two*** interesting facts you learned about either the Northern fur seals or sea lions from going to this exhibit. You may either listen to a presentation or read about them.
   1. Watch either the Fur Seals or the Sea Lions interacting with each other and spectators. Describe ***two*** interesting behaviors you observed while watching.
2. Find the **Northern Waters Exhibit** which features the Gulf of Maine on the 3rd level of the aquarium. Within this exhibit, find **one** animal you were already familiar with that live near New England. Briefly describe the animal below:
   1. Then, find **one** animal/fact you were NOT already familiar with from New England and describe it below:
3. Find the **Sea Dragons Exhibit** on the 2nd level. First, try to find a Leafy Sea Dragon in the tanks (it’s very hard because of their impressive anatomy). Then, write down **two** interesting facts about any of the sea dragons that you read about in this exhibit.
4. Go all the way to the top floor where you’ll find the **Yawkey Coral Reef Center**. This exhibit is brand new to the aquarium. Listen to the aquarium expert or read the informative panels all around and write down ***three*** facts about Coral Reefs that you found the most interesting.

**Part 4: Reflection Essay**

1. After we have finished our field trip in the New England Aquarium, write a brief essay reflecting on our visit. Include answers to the following questions and any additional pictures you want. You may write this up neatly on lined paper or type it.
   1. *What was your favorite part about the trip?*
   2. *What do you think are the major benefits to having an Aquarium close by?*
   3. *Go to the New England Aquarium’s website and research the various ways that they are making an impact on ocean sustainability. In your essay, discuss at least* ***3 major problems*** *with the oceans right now and how the NE Aquarium is playing a role in helping solve those problems.*
   4. *Lastly, briefly discuss your major “take-away” from the field trip. What interested you the most? What would you be interested in studying more about?*