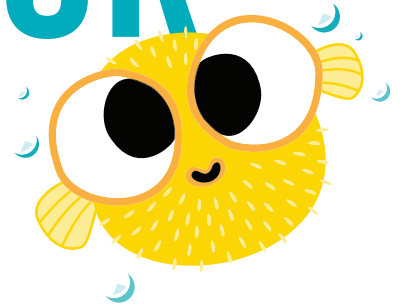
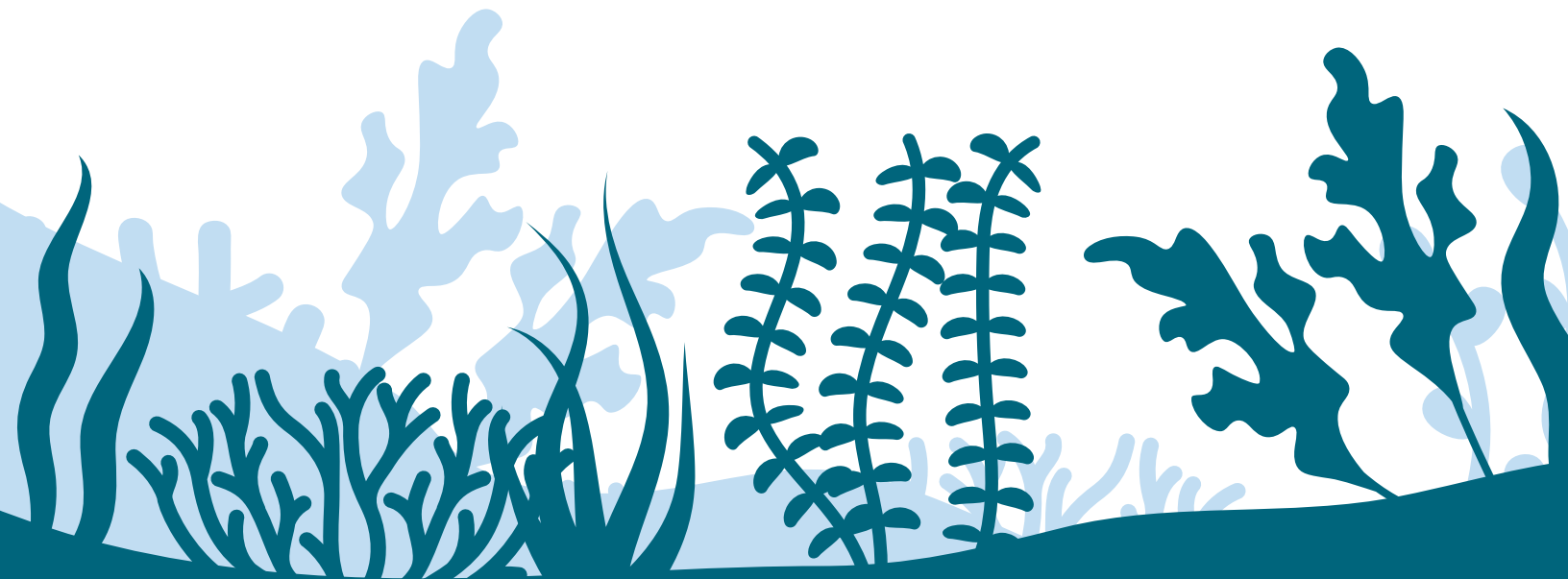


AQUARIUM EXPLORER ACTIVITY BOOK



THIS ACTIVITY BOOK BELONGS TO

NAME: _____



Marine Extension and
Georgia Sea Grant
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA



An adventure awaits...

Hello aquarium explorer! Welcome to the UGA Marine Education Center and Aquarium on Skidaway Island.

This activity book is your guide to exploring the facility while learning about Georgia's marine life and coastal habitats.

ABOUT THE FACILITY:

Did you know the UGA Marine Education Center and Aquarium opened in 1970 as Georgia's first saltwater aquarium?

All the animals on display are found on Georgia's coast, though not all of them are native. Keep an eye out for our invasive species tank.

The aquarium holds over **10,000 gallons** of water for housing all of the marine life you see.

Most of the animals here are fed three times a week. If you visit on a Monday, Wednesday or Friday you might be able to see a fish feeding.

AQUARIUM VISITOR BEST PRACTICES

You can help make sure the aquarium is a safe and enjoyable space for animals and humans alike by following the rules below!

- 1. Be respectful of other aquarium visitors.**
- 2. No running.**
- 3. No tapping the tank glass. It disturbs the fish.**
- 4. Food and drink are best enjoyed outside at a picnic table.**
- 5. Stay with an adult at all times.**
- 6. Remember to be gentle when handling animals in the touch tank. Use two hands and hold them just above the water.**
- 7. Treat our displays with care.**
- 8. Have fun!**

WORD SEARCH

Check out the word search below and see if you can find all **10 words!**

U H A B I T A T D A H C
O R L U C O A S T N P O
D A D A P T A T I O N C
U K I O E S T U A R Y E
S F I S H N T I D E P A
P A G O R G A N I S M N
C O N S E R V A T I O N
U I G K I S L A N D W D

COAST

ISLAND

TIDE

FISH

OCEAN

ESTUARY

HABITAT

ORGANISM

ADAPTATION

CONSERVATION

How did you do? **Find the answer key and definitions on the next page.**

ANSWER KEY & DEFINITIONS

U H A B I T A T D A H C
O R L U C O A S T N P O
D A D A P T A T I O N C
U K I O E S T U A R Y E
S F I S H N T I D E P A
P A G O R G A N I S M N
C O N S E R V A T I O N
U I G K I S L A N D W D

Adaptation - A characteristic or behavior that helps an animal or plant survive in their habitat.

Conservation - Protection of animals, plants and resources found in nature.

Coast - The area where land and sea meet. Georgia has 100 miles of coastline.

Estuary - A body of water where rivers (freshwater) meet and mix with the ocean (saltwater). This mixture of water is called brackish water.

Fish - Fish are vertebrates that live in water. All fish breathe with gills, swim with fins, are covered by scales and are cold-blooded.

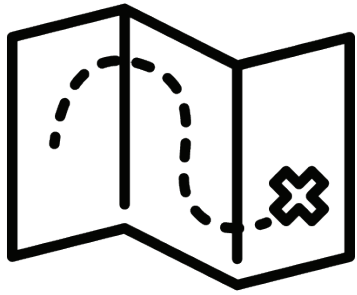
Habitat - Where a plant or animal naturally lives and grows.

Island - Generally, an area of land that is surrounded by water. The UGA Aquarium is located on Skidaway Island.

Ocean - An ocean is a huge body of saltwater. Earth has one big ocean with many features. Water covers nearly 71% of Earth's surface.

Organism - An individual living thing, such as a plant or animal.

Tide - The daily rise and fall of the ocean over the land caused by the gravitational pull between the earth, moon and sun. Georgia has a full tidal cycle every 24 hours and 25 minutes!



BE A SEA SEARCHER!

Use these clues to **identify** some of the animals in the tanks. There may be more than one fish or animal that fits the description. See how many you can find, and write your answer(s) under the clue!

1. This is a flat fish that likes to bury itself in the sand.
2. This fish likes to hide in rocks.
3. These fish like to swim together in a group, also known as a school.
4. This is a really large fish that swims very slowly.
5. Can you find a fish with stripes?
6. This fish has chin whiskers, also known as barbels.
7. This animal uses its shell for protection.
8. This animal has the word “blue” in its name. Females have red coloring on their claws.

1) Flounder, Atlantic stingray, clearnose skate; 2) Oyster toadfish, black sea bass; 3) Atlantic spadefish, sergeant major, pinfish; 4) red drum, black drum, triggerfish; 5) Atlantic spadefish, sheepshead, sergeant major; 6) Gafftopsail catfish, sea catfish; 7) Hermit crab, whelk, turtle; 8) Blue crab

POSSIBLE ANSWERS:



Before cameras were invented, scientists and naturalists drew pictures of animals to keep a record of them.

Create your own record by drawing one of the animals you observed at the UGA Aquarium in the space below.



What kind of animal is it?

Describe its appearance.

What color is it? Does it have any special markings, like spots or stripes? Does it have a round or long body shape? Do you see any teeth?

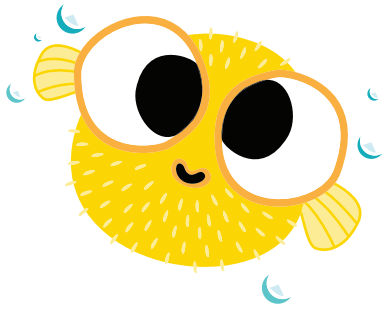
What is your animal doing inside of the tank? Circle one or more of the following:

Swimming Fast

Swimming Slow

Hiding

Staying Still



Great job, explorer! You have completed your activity book. We hope you enjoyed your visit and discovered some neat coastal animals and habitats as you traveled through the aquarium. Now you can share what you learned with others and encourage them to get out and explore Georgia's beautiful coast.

You can find more activities at gacoast.uga.edu/education-resources.

This activity booklet was produced by Chanté Lively, a 2021-2022 Marine Education Fellow at University of Georgia Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant.

The Marine Education Center and Aquarium is part of UGA Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant, a program dedicated to improving the health of the coast.

Learn more at gacoast.uga.edu.



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