

Name_____

Period_____

Aquarium Observation Guide

The roundabout – big tank in the center of the aquarium. This tank holds 200,000 gallons of water and contains more than 800 animals representing 120 species. It represents a coral reef habitat.

Identify the following types of fish:

Sea Basses

Jacks

Snappers

Sturgeon

Sharks

Rays

Which of these fish seems to be able to swim the fastest?
Why?

While your group is at the roundabout, when your chaperone tells you, choose one of the above types of fish to observe. Relax, ignore people around you, and silently observe these fish for at least 5 minutes. If the one that you are observing disappears, find another one! During this time, make a sketch of your fish, and write a few sentences describing what they are doing (are they schooling with other fish, or solitary? Are they swimming fast, slow? Where do they tend to stay in the tank, top, middle, bottom? Do they interact with other types of fish?

Name of your fish:

Sketch goes here:

Description goes here:

Other Tanks

Grouper tank in the “thinking gallery”

The neon goby and the grouper have a symbiotic relationship. Describe what they do for each other.

Amazon tank in the freshwater gallery

Find the Pacu. What does it eat? Why is this unusual fish food source available in the Amazon?

Harbor Islands tank or any of the northern waters of the world tanks

Find a flat fish. What is it called? What advantage does it gain from being flat?

Tropical gallery

What are some differences between tropical habitats and the cold-water ones that you observed earlier? Note differences in the fish: shape, size, color. Note differences in the water. Note differences in the substrate (what surface are the fish swimming above, or living on?)

Penguin exhibit

Describe the noises made by the African black-footed penguins.

Observe the penguins use their wings to fly through water. Why might it be advantageous for these birds to live in water rather than in the air?

