

Travel Brochure Scavenger Hunt (Write Up)

Overview

Focus Questions

- What habitats and organisms can be found in South Carolina?
- How do different characteristics in an environments affect the diversity of organisms?
- How do plants and animals adapt to survive in their environment?
- What effects do humans have on habitats and organisms?

Activity Synopsis

Students will participate in an activity in which they explore the South Carolina Aquarium. They will:

- Closely observe organisms found in South Carolina
- Investigate how the different characteristics in environments affect the diversity of organisms
- Inquire about adaptations that help organisms to survive in a habitat where their needs are met
- Recognize how energy is transferred within an ecosystem
- Demonstrate their knowledge by successfully completing the Travel Brochure Scavenger Hunt

Time Frame

This activity will take 30 minutes – 1 hour at the Aquarium.

Objectives

The student will be able to:

- Observe and study habitats and organisms found in South Carolina
- Record how different characteristics in environments affect the diversity of organisms
- Provide pictorial and written evidence of investigating local plants' and animals' adaptations
- Recognize how humans affect the health of a habitat

Key Terms

- Apex consumer
- Behavioral Adaptation
- Consumer
- Food chain
- Habitat
- Invertebrate
- Physical adaptation
- Piedmont
- Producer
- Saltmarsh
- Swamp
- Vertebrate

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Standards

2014 Academic Standards and Performance Indicators for Science

3rd Grade: 3.L.5, 3.L.5A, 3.LA.1, 3.L.5A.2, 3.L.5B.1

4th Grade: 4.L.5, 4.L.5B, 4.L.5B.3

5th Grade: 5.L.4, 5.L.4A, 5.L.4A.2, 5.L.4B, 5.L.4B.1, 5.L.4B.3,

* **Bold standards are the main standards addressed in this activity**

Procedure

Materials

- Travel Brochure Scavenger Hunts (Print from Aquarium website)
- Writing utensil (pencil, colored pencil or crayon)
- Regions map of South Carolina: <http://curriculum.scaquarium.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/South-Carolina-Regions-Map.pdf>
- Clipboards (if desired)

Prior to Field Trip:

Introductory Discussion:

1. Invite students to start a discussion about their field trip to the South Carolina Aquarium. Some discussion questions include: *Who has visited the South Carolina Aquarium before? What kinds of plants and animals do you think we will see? Why are these particular plants and animals cared for at the aquarium?*
2. Explain how the plants and animals they will see can be found in South Carolina. There are organisms at the Aquarium from all of the regions in the state, from the mountains to the sea. Review the regions of South Carolina- Mountains, Piedmont, Sand Hills, Inner Coastal Plain, Outer Coastal Plain, Coastal Zone, and Ocean.
3. Explain how their exploration through the Aquarium will be a mini-trip through each region. They will get to see the journey a water droplets takes, starting in the mountains and flowing down into the ocean.
4. Lastly, discuss why they think learning about local plants and animals is important.
5. Provide instructions for the scavenger hunt.

Activity—Travel Brochure Scavenger Hunt Instructions:

- In groups, students will imagine they are water droplets taking a journey from the mountains down to the sea.
- They will answer the questions to document the habitats and organisms they see during their exploration in their Travel Brochure Scavenger Hunt.
- The activity is predominantly open-ended to provide students an opportunity to explore the Aquarium through their interests with some structure.
- Students can draw a picture of their favorite animal on the front when they are back at school or at home.

Follow-Up Questions:

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- What was your favorite animal? Why?
- Compare and contrast the animals in the mountains to the animals in the ocean.
- How can natural and human-made factors impact a habitat?
- Do you feel inspired to help an animal you saw? What can you do to help this animal?

Assessment

The students can be assessed using the Travel Brochure Scavenger Hunt. Grade out of 100 points*:

- Drawings 5 points
- Written Answer 3 points
- Cover Drawing 10 points
- Student Name 2 points

*The points are also written on the Answer Key.

Students can present their cover drawing and why it's their favorite animal or they can present the animal they studied in the Coast exhibit.