

SC Aquarium Public Program Worksheet

(Adapted from NAI, Certified Interpretive Guide Training workbook)

Your name: Kate Brown and Shelley Dearhart

Program Title: “Mysteries of the GOT”-maybe

Theme: The mouths and teeth of our animals in the GOT determine what types of food they eat and how we feed them.

Audience: Well-educated public, and families of all ages on summer vacation

Goals: (Why are we doing this program?): Teach the Aquarium’s visitors about the animals of the Great Ocean Tank in a fun and interactive way by getting them involved in a “who done it” mystery.

Objectives: (Remember to include a conservation objective):

- Audience will remember at least 3 facts about the GOT or the animals of the GOT
- 60% of the guests will stay for the entire program
- At least 2-3 questions asked by the audience at the end of the program
- Audience will remember one of the Aquarium’s conservation messages within the show (shark conservation, SSI, etc.)

How will you measure the objectives?

- Count how many guests are there at the start and end of the program
- See if anyone asks for more information regarding sharks after the program
- When SSI conservation message is used, at least 5 visitors will take an SSI brochure.
- By the audience’s reaction: do they smile, laugh, answer questions asked, etc.?

Materials Needed:

Blue Dive Show bin

TV (possible), speaker and extension chord

Clicker from classroom to use during slideshow

Audio for animal statements and alibis

Props for kids to dress as suspects (shark fin, black and white striped shirt, dive gear and sea turtle prop)

PROGRAM OUTLINE

Introduction: Welcome the audience and introduce yourself as “Sherlock Holmes” and introduce your assistant, Dr. Diver, as your right-hand helper. Get to know the audience (ask where they are from). Thank the guests by explaining that we are non-profit and are about 80% supported by them buying tickets and memberships to get into the Aquarium; we would not be open without their support.

State the theme and that the guests will be helping to solve a mystery of the GOT. This is a “who done it” mystery; we need to know who bit the diver!

Body (subthemes): Ask for 4 different assistant investigators/junior detectives to help solve the mystery. Ask them each their name and where they are from. Each assistant will represent one of the suspects. Each investigator will have a prop to hold or wear while we go over each animal’s testimony. (Caretta-sea turtle shell, Sheepshead-black and white striped shirt, Sand tiger shark-shark fin and jaw if available, and Diver-scuba gear) Using the TV, each animal will give their statement and their alibi for where they were at the time of the bite. Have diver briefly elaborate after each animal’s statement on the animal’s teeth (or lack thereof) and what we feed them.

The conservation message can come in with either the shark or diver regarding shark conservation and not being afraid of sharks at the beach. (Every year in the entire world, only about 8-10 people die from sharks out of 7 billion people. Each year, people kill over *100 million* sharks worldwide. Also, the last fatality by a shark in Charleston was in 1852! These are animals that we do not need to fear while we are at the beach. There are also many things you can do to avoid encountering a shark while at the beach [these are courtesy of NOAA – you can say as many or as little of these as you want]):

- Go to the beach between the hours of 9am and 5pm and not at night
- Stay with a group of people
- Avoid sandbars and steep drop offs
- Avoid waters where people are fishing
- Do not enter the water if bleeding
- Avoid wearing shiny jewelry

Now it’s time to vote the jury (audience) to decide who the culprit is. Take a vote by guests raising their hands and ask each junior detective their opinion. They should come to the conclusion that the Sheepshead is to blame. Thank all of the volunteers that helped today and have the audience thank Dr. Diver.

Conclusion: Inform the audience of the next upcoming show and where it will be held (2pm Lemur Show). Let the guests know that you will be staying for questions after the show and thank them for supporting the SC Aquarium!

Animal Statements and Alibis (subthemes):

Suspect #1: Caretta

Shellock Holmes: She is the only reptile in the GOT. She is a loggerhead sea turtle (the SC state reptile) and must come to the surface to breathe air, so that's where you will normally find her.

Her statement: "Those fish are way too fast for me to be able to catch, although I like to try. I *am* the diva though-I do what I want."

Her alibi: "I was floating at the top of the GOT, getting a breath of air."

Diver elaboration: Talk about her strong beak and how it's used in the wild to crush animals with hard shells, like snails and crabs. Mention what we feed her in our tank.

Suspect #2: Sheepshead

Shellock Holmes: This guy looks like a convict, with his black and white stripes, and he always shows up for feeding time.

His statement: "Listen guys, I'm hungry. I want what's in the yellow bucket. Can we just have lunch now?"

His alibi: "I was in front of the tall window, waiting for the diver to feed me."

Diver elaboration: Teeth of the sheepshead include well-defined incisors, molars, and grinders and they look very similar to human teeth. They have heavy, strong teeth that are necessary for crushing and grinding the shelled animals that are prey for this fish. They enjoy invertebrates, small vertebrates and occasional plant material. Large juveniles and adults prey on blue crab, oysters, clams, crustaceans, and small fish.

Suspect #3: Sand tiger shark

Shellock Holmes: This shark is known for his "sharkish" good looks and toothy smile. It likes to cruise around the GOT daily.

His statement: "The divers feed me three times a week. Why would I bite one of them or anyone else? I'm always full and happy."

His alibi: "I was swimming by the slanted window so everyone would have seen if I had done it."

Diver elaboration: Sharks only eat every 10-14 days in the wild so we keep our sharks full throughout the week so they don't bite the other fish. And come to think of it, I don't think a diver has ever been bitten by a shark in the GOT. Something really

amazing though about their teeth is that we find them on the bottom of the tank almost every day and they can lose up to 1000 teeth in one year. Their teeth are in 3-6 rows on both upper and lower jaws and they are always growing new teeth (show jaw if available).

Suspect #4: The Other Diver

Shellock Holmes: You don't think people bite? It happens all the time! According to the national shark attack file - 1,587 people were bitten by other people in 1987 in NYC. In that same year, only 13 people were injured by sharks in the entire USA. Our divers are generally team players and look out for each other, but you never know!

Her/his statement: "How am I supposed to bite someone underwater? I don't exactly have gills to breathe with!"

Her/his alibi: "I was cleaning the reef structure when it happened."

Diver elaboration: Explain that the divers are all friends and why there are always at least two divers in the tank at one time.

Shellock Holmes: Add in conservation message here about sharks: why we should not fear them and why they are important to have in the ocean (see above).