

Volunteers will be selected to place circles on a large plinko board. Chips will fall into a category. Educator will read a true or false statement from the selected category, ask for volunteer to give an answer, and then ask the diver for the correct answer. Diver will give the correct answer and the included background information.

EEW GROSS

True or False - The mucus secreted by the green moray eel is a sign of illness.

False –Just the opposite! This mucus coating helps to protect the eel from getting sick. Many fish have a mucoid coating. Has anyone taken a fish off of a line before and felt this? It's primarily used as protection from disease and parasites.

True or False - The fish and sea turtle in the GOT all together produce enough waste (poop) to fill 7 milk gallon jugs every day.

True – The fish and sea turtle of the GOT get fed about 60 lbs. of food each day. What goes in...must come out, equaling about 55 lbs. of waste each day. When you convert that into gallons it comes out to be **7 gallon milk jugs every day!!** (Great opportunity to use the gallon of milk container to visualize the amount).

Educator: Another special thank you to the divers that clean the tank and assist the filtration system!

True or False – Sharks have livers that take up 90% of their body cavity.

True- Bony fish like this red drum (or point out another bony fish) have swim bladders or air sacs that help to control their buoyancy- how high or low they are in the water. Sharks' livers store oils which are less dense than water. Think about the oil bubbles that float to the top of your salad dressing container. Sharks' livers help them to stay higher in the water. As a diver, I have a BCD or buoyancy control device. I'm able to add air to this vest to float to the top and let it out when I need to sink.

Final Question Option:

True or False – Sea turtles mistake plastic bags for food items like jellyfish. Many patients have been treated in the Zucker Family Sea Turtle Hospital for plastic ingestion.

True –. One sea turtle patient named Midway passed –*that's right we mean pooped*- 59 different pieces of plastic, during the first few days, in the hospital.

Educator: When plastic enters the food web it's not limited to sea turtles, but also impacts our food chain. The good news is that it's much easier to prevent plastic waste from entering our waterways by refusing to use it in the first place than by trying to clean it up after the fact. Join me in refusing single use plastic like bags and straws. Thank you all so much for joining us for Fish N' Chips.

**THAT'S
COOL**

True or False - The GOT is the deepest tank in North America.

True – We don't have the largest tank, but we do have the deepest tank in North America at 42 feet deep. Thanks to the depth, we are able to show three different habitats and viewing windows, including rocky reef and open ocean.

True or False – We're going to add a bottlenose dolphin to the GOT.

False – South Carolina is the only state with legislation prohibiting cetaceans in human care. Even though we don't have them in the aquarium, we have 100 bottlenose dolphins that live year-round close to the Charleston Harbor and roughly 300 dolphins that pass through during the spring and summer. We also partner with NOAA to understand how the bottlenose dolphins use the harbor. When you head out today, ask an educator outside if they've seen one recently.

True or False – Being a scuba diver is the highest paid position at the SC Aquarium.

False – All 80 divers are volunteers and come in for 8 hour shifts. Have diver describe what it would be like to spend a day in his/her flippers/ favorite part of the job.

Final Question Option:

True or False— What you're doing right now is helping the animals.

True- That's true because what you're doing right now is learning! Our mission is to connect people with water, wildlife, and wild places.

Educator: I encourage you to share the neat things that you've learned today with your family and friends. There's always more to learn and so we hope to see you again soon! Thanks so much for spending the day with us at the SC Aquarium!

RELATIONSHIPS

True or False - Red Drums got their name because their scales were once used to make musical drums.

False – Red Drums get their name because when males contract their muscles and vibrate their swim bladder, it creates a drumming sound used to attract the females.

True or False – Divers are constantly worried about the sharks.

False- Despite what we see in the movies, humans are not on sharks' menus, and we're not worried about them in this tank. Sharks will use all of their senses to differentiate a prey item from something that is not a prey item. Sharks like to eat lots of fish, and here we feed them salmon and mackerel.

Educator: If you're still concerned about sharks, there are a few things that you can do to limit your interactions with them. For instance, you shouldn't swim in areas with fishermen- these heavily baited areas are bringing small fish in which are also bringing larger fish like sharks in.

True or False – Diver (name) never dives alone.

True – Divers always swim with at least one dive buddy. This is a safety protocol. My dive buddy helps to keep an eye on my equipment and redirect Caretta, the loggerhead sea turtle, if she swims too close. To dive here at the South Carolina Aquarium, we go through Advanced Open Water certification and participate in frequent safety trainings to keep our skills fresh.

Final Question Option:

True or False – All fish grow very quickly and have many babies.

False- This was a tough one! Some fish take a very long time to mature.

Educator: For everyone that's been drooling during this show, don't be embarrassed- many of us that work at the aquarium are fish eaters too. However, we make sure that our *relationship* with our food is a sustainable one. We have many Good Catch partner restaurants in the area- look for the infinity fish symbol on their menu. These partners make sure that they are harvesting fish without destroying habitats and selecting fish from healthy populations. Thanks again for joining us and let's give our diver one more round of applause!

GOT MYTHS

True or False - The animals constantly eat their “tank-mates”.

False – The animals in this tank are well-fed. Through varied feeding methods, we can make sure that all 550 animals receive food that’s meant for them. These feeding methods involve target feeding and broadcast feeding (briefly describe feeding methods if you haven’t talked about them yet). Creating three very different habitats (deep ocean, shallow rocky reef, and deep rocky reef) also allows these animals to spread out and find shelter.

Educator: Now we can’t say that we’ve never had a fish “go missing,” but because of the habitat design and feeding schedule, it doesn’t happen very often.

True or False - We have a tuna in the tank.

False – Although some of those large fish look like tuna, they are a large species of Jacks. Our tank is not large enough for a tuna to live in. They need lots of room to swim fast for long distances. Our tank is only 50 feet wide at its widest point.

True or False– Sea turtles have gills.

False - Sea turtles have lungs. Their lungs are adapted to allow fast exchange of oxygen and to prevent gasses from being trapped during deep dives. Transporting oxygen to their body tissue by blood is more efficient. Thanks to this “flow-through” respiratory system, sea turtles can also rest underwater for several hours.

Final Question Option:

True or False- The South Carolina Aquarium is a non-profit organization.

True- The South Carolina Aquarium is a non-profit organization which means that your ticket fee goes right back into helping care for animals on exhibit and patients in the sea turtle hospital.

Educator: That’s right. We’re not a government-run facility. In fact, government funding accounts for less than 1 % of our budget. Now, in addition to caring of our animals and keeping the lights on, your ticket fee also helps us share these wonders with our community through open access events and free school programs for those in need. Thank you for helping us to connect others with the world of water, wildlife, and wild places. A big thank you also to our volunteer diver for joining us today to learn more about the Great Ocean Tank!

**LEAVE NO
TRACE**

True or False - Sea turtles are great problem solvers. They can tell the difference between a plastic bag and a jellyfish.

False – Sea turtles are not good at problem solving. Loggerhead sea turtles have a brain about the size of a walnut. If they see a plastic bag floating in the water, they will think it is a jellyfish and eat it. The plastic will cause digestive problems like blockage and impaction (gas build up) and could be fatal to the sea turtle. Please remember to pick up after yourself. Keep trash out of the ocean!

True or False- Water moves trash across the state.

True- Watersheds. The Santee River Watershed flows from the mountains to the sea. Good decisions like cleaning up your camp site, in other parts of the state, can help this part of the state.

True or False: It's good to knock down sandcastles and fill in holes at the beach.

True –Don't knock down a sandcastle while a child is still playing, but these are great things to do when you leave the beach. Sea turtle nesting season occurs in South Carolina, from May 1 to October 1. You can help out nesting mothers and hatchlings by taking everything home with you at the end of the beach day. Fill in holes that sea turtles could get stuck in, and knock down sandcastles that are obstacles for hatchlings.

True or False: Everyone can be a scientist.

True- Believe it or not, that's true. There are many different citizen scientist programs in the area. Through short trainings, you too can collect data that is very important for scientists.

Educator: I'm sure you're sick of hearing there's an app for that....but there's an app for that! Many apps exist that help to document plants and animals that you see throughout the year. Did you know that the South Carolina Aquarium has an app as well? If you search for the South Carolina Aquarium in the app store, you'll find the Litter Free Legacy Digital Journal app for free. This app will help you to keep track of trash that you pick up from the local beach, your backyard, or even your walk back to the parking deck. Scientists and policy makers can use this information to make better decisions for our community. Thank you all so much for joining us and have a great day at the SC Aquarium!

