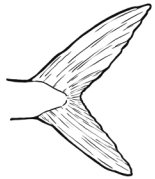


Ocean

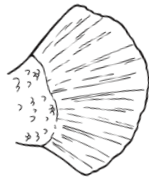
Great Ocean Tank Exhibit:

Fish have many fins. The caudal, or tail, fin gives them the power to swim. The shape of the tail fin determines if they are a fast (forked tail) or slow (round tail) swimmer. List two fast fish and two slow fish.



Forked – Fast

1. Jacks, sharks,
2. tomtate, blue runner, permit, pompano



Round – Slow

1. Porcupinefish,
2. graysby grouper, vermillion snapper, black sea bass,

Lower Ocean Gallery Exhibit:

Lionfish are invaders. Even though they are beautiful, they should not be in the waters of South Carolina. Explain why they are invasive:

Lionfish have no natural predators in South Carolina; without natural predators, their populations grow out of control and drive native fish out of their homes.

Zucker Family Sea Turtle Recovery™

Sea turtles can be injured in many different ways — some by human causes and others by natural causes. Pick one sea turtle in Zucker Family Sea Turtle Recovery and fill out the following information:

Name of your sea turtle:

Species of your sea turtle:

Why is your sea turtle in recovery?

Was the issue caused by humans or natural causes? Explain.

What can you do to help this sea turtle?

Answers will vary depending on selected turtle.
Go to scaquarium.org/stcc in order to check answers.

Aquarium Wrap Up

Now that you have traveled throughout the state of South Carolina, list two things you can do to protect South Carolina habitats and the animals that live there.

Answers vary; recycle, don't litter, pick up trash, use canvas bags instead of plastic, use reusable bottles, reduce single-use plastics (forks, straws), join a conservation organization





6th–8th Grade Scavenger Hunt

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Name: Answer Key

All Galleries

Taxonomy is the classification of organisms. This is one way scientists can learn about and protect the natural world. As you walk around, look for the following animals. For each, figure out the phylum and the Aquarium exhibit in which each animal can be found. Look at the table below for phylum help.

Animal	Phylum	Aquarium exhibit
 Moon jelly	Phylum Cnidaria	Moon Jelly exhibit
 Loggerhead sea turtle	Phylum Chordata	Great Ocean Tank, Zucker Family Sea Turtle Recovery™ (possible)
 Octopus	Phylum Mollusca (no shell)	Camouflage exhibit
 Sea urchin	Phylum Echinodermata	Boneyard Beach exhibit

Phylum Chordata — animals with a vertebrae

Phylum Porifera — have pores, filter feeders

Phylum Cnidaria — tentacles, stinging cells

Phylum Mollusca — soft, muscular foot; hard shell

Phylum Echinodermata — spiny or bumpy skin, water vascular system

Phylum Arthropoda — joined appendages, eyes, exoskeleton

Mountain Forest

Bald Eagle Exhibit:

Why is Liberty the bald eagle at the South Carolina Aquarium?

The actual cause of Liberty's injury is unknown. She likely flew into a power line due to the injury on her left wing.

Can you think of any other human-caused incidents that could harm animals in the wild?

Answers vary; entanglement, ingestion of trash and debris, destruction of habitats, vehicle collisions, pesticides, etc.

What is an aquarium's role in helping protect species?

Answers vary; education via ambassador animals and programs, participating in Species Survival Programs (SSPs), research, etc.

Mountain Forest Exhibit:

Circle the word in each pair that best describes a mountain stream.

Fast-moving or Slow-moving

Hot or Cold

Oxygen-rich or Oxygen-poor

Thinking Question: How do the stream characteristics that you circled influence what animals can be found in the mountains?

The animals must be adapted to live in fast currents, cold temperatures and oxygen-rich water.

Piedmont

Reservoir Exhibit:

Name two pros of damming a river:

- Answers vary; flood control, irrigation, fishing boating
-

Coastal Plain

Brownwater Swamp and Blackwater Swamp Exhibits:

What makes a brownwater swamp brown?

Red clay sediment and silt from the piedmont are carried by rainwater into the coastal plain swamps during the rainy season.

What makes a blackwater swamp black?

Tannins from tree leaves stain the water a darker color; the leaves fall into the swamps and the tannic acid leeches into the water.

List two reasons why swamps are vital ecosystems in South Carolina:

- Answers vary; great habitat for animals and plants, filters water to help
- get rid of pollutants, helps control flooding

Carolina Bay Exhibit:

Describe a Carolina bay habitat.

Shallow depressions, ringed with sand

Why are pitcher plants found in Carolina bays?

Pitcher plants live in areas where the nutrient level in the soil is low. These plants get nutrients by digesting insects.

Saltmarsh Aviary

Saltmarsh Aviary Exhibit:

Where does a saltmarsh habitat get its nutrients? (Circle your answer.)

Land

Sea

Name two functions of a saltmarsh:

- Answers vary; act as a sponge to absorb water and prevent flooding,
- filters pollutants from water and land, shields land from wave action and storms, acts as a habitat for animals and plants and a nursery for young animals

Thinking Question: What would happen to South Carolina's coast if our saltmarshes were destroyed?

The coastline would be unprotected during hurricanes and storms, causing habitat destruction.

Use the given terms and match them to each description (each letter may be used more than once).

- | | |
|---|---|
| A Population —
A group of organisms that can breed with one another (all the same species in an area) | <u>A</u> All the red drum |
| B Community —
All the organisms (living things) that inhabit a particular area | <u>D</u> Sporobolus (spartina) grass is a producer |
| C Ecosystem —
All the living and non-living things in a particular area | <u>C</u> All the plants, animals, pluff mud and water |
| D Niche —
The role an organism plays in an ecosystem | <u>D</u> Oysters clean the water as they filter feed |
| | <u>D</u> Brown pelican is a consumer |
| | <u>B</u> All of the blue crabs and fiddler crabs |
| | <u>A</u> All of the great blue herons |
| | <u>B</u> All the plants and animals in the saltmarsh |
| | <u>D</u> Diamondback terrapin is an omnivore |

Coast

Boneyard Beach Exhibit:

What is a boneyard beach?

A beach landscape with remnants of fallen and bleached trees.

What are some factors that transform these beaches?

Answers vary; time, tides, currents, sun, storms, island migration