

The Mid-Atlantic Ocean: Oceanic Regions and their Inhabitants

Lesson Summary:

Students will become familiar with the animals that live in the Fish of the Mid-Atlantic Ocean Tank at the Atlantic City Aquarium. They will be lectured on its inhabitants and the particular attributes that make this region of the ocean a suitable environment for those specific species. These attributes will include those of the animals as well as the ecosystem. They will use this knowledge to create a biography for one animal of their choice.

Grade Levels:

3-4

NJCCCS:

5.3.2.C.1,

5.3.2.C.2,

5.3.4.C.1,

Topic Keywords:

*ecosystem

*habitat

*gulf-stream

Objectives: Students will:

gain specific knowledge of the 18 different species living in the Fish of the Mid-Atlantic tank as it pertains to their ecosystem and habitats.

*gain an understanding of the effects of the gulf-stream on their local ocean waters

*create a biography on one individual animal to be turned in

Estimated Duration of Activity:

Required Materials:

*Local Oceanic Life Pages

*Power Point Presentation

*Animal Biography Worksheet

*Visit to the Atlantic City Aquarium

Teacher Procedure:

Prior to the visit:

1. Discuss the attributes of the mid-Atlantic oceanic region including the available habitats and food supplies.

2. Put students into approximately 18 groups (will vary depending on current number of species in the Mid-Atlantic tank) if necessary. Smaller classes may work on an individual basis.
3. Assign each group (or individual) one of the species to be discussed.
4. Provide students with Local Oceanic Life hand-out and Animal Biography worksheets.
5. Show pictures of each of the different animals (either through both power point presentation and printed hand-outs or handouts alone).
6. Using the internet students will research what their animal eats and find out at least one interesting fact about it.
7. Using the lecture information and hand-outs students will be given time to fill out the biography in class as well as on their visit.

During the visit:

1. An Atlantic City Aquarium educator will seat the students around The Fish of the Mid-Atlantic Tank.
2. There will be a fifteen minute lecture on the tanks inhabitants and their role in their ecosystem.
3. Students will be encouraged to ask questions about their specific assigned animal to complete the biography worksheet.

Evaluation:

Answer the following questions:

1. Did students use their research time in class and at the aquarium to fill in each section of the biography? 20%
2. Did students use their research time in class and at the aquarium to fill in each section of the biography? 40% each section