

AQUADEMY LESSON 2: FISH FAMILIES

There are so many fish in the sea!
To make them easier to study scientists have divided them into groups called **FAMILIES**.

1

W.O.W

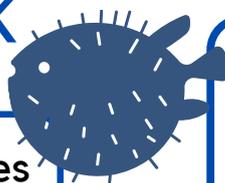
Look at the tank on the left (on the same side as the photo booth). In this tank is a group of fish called Trigger Fish that can be identified by their oval shaped bodies and far set fins.



TASK: There are two types of triggerfish in this exhibit, can you find them? How are they the same, how are they different?

2

SHIPWRECK



One of our favorite families of fish live here Pufferfish!!
There are many types of pufferfish in the world, 3 different types can be found in this room. They have round bodies and spines.

TASK: Using the following descriptions, try to identify each species of pufferfish.

- Find the dogface pufferfish (dark brown and has teeth)
- Find the porcupine pufferfish (large with pokey spines)
- Find the burr fish (small with distinctive 'eyebrows')

3

THE DOME

Some families can be divided into smaller families. The turtle family can be broken down into smaller families- freshwater turtles or salt water turtles (sea turtles.)

TASK:
Look at these pictures- how do you think scientists tell each of these turtles apart?

Red Earred Slider



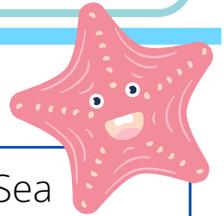
Alligator Snapping Turtle



4

SHORELINE

In some fish families, family members look nothing alike! Sea Stars, Sea Cucumbers, and Urchins are all in the same family even though they look really different! We know they are related because of the things they have in common. One thing they all have are **TUBE FEET**! These help animals in this family walk around, hold onto rocks, and smell!



TASK:

Ask an educator to point out the tube feet on a Sea Star or Sea Urchin for you.

5

THE CAVE



Sometimes animals can look very similar and not be related at all! Can you find the Moray eels in the cave? These are true eels, but the aquarium is also home to a type of fish called a Wolf eel! The wolf eel has a body like an eel but isn't an eel at all!

BONUS: See if you can find the Wolf Eel in the Submarine. He likes to hide so you'll have to look close.



6 THE TUNNEL



TASK: Using the chart below explore how animals that are related can still have differences.

Characteristics	Zebra Shark	Grey Reef Shark
Fin Shape	Pointed or Round	Pointed or Round
Has 5 gills	Yes or No	Yes or No
Mouth Position	Front or Bottom	Front or Bottom
Pattern Present	Yes or No	Yes or No

7 CONTACT COVE



DID YOU KNOW that stingrays are closely related to sharks?! We know this because instead of having bones, sharks and stingrays have bodies made of cartilage, which is the same stuff your nose and ears are made of.



BONUS: Your ear is hard but flexible, is that how the stingray feels?

8 SUBMARINE

The submarine is home to some of the aquarium's strangest and most interesting creatures- **Corals and Jellyfish!** Believe it or not, these are animals! We know they're animals because they are **CONSUMERS**, meaning they eat their own food. Plants are **PRODUCERS** and make their own food.

TASK: Using what you just learned are the following organisms producers or consumers?
Tree, Shark, Alligator, Flower, Fish



Final Test!

Take this mini quiz to test your knowledge!

Why do scientists group animals together?

- A. To tell them apart
- B. To make them easier to study
- C. Because it's fun

Turtles are divided into what two groups?

- A. Fresh and Saltwater
- B. Hard shell and soft shell
- C. Land turtles and water turtles

What do sea stars, sea cucumbers, and sea urchins all have in common?

- A. They all breathe air
- B. They all live in the same place
- C. They all have Tube Feet

What do sharks and stingrays have instead of bones?

- A. Cartilage
- B. Really strong muscles
- C. Nothing, because they have bones

Which of the following is a producer?

- A. Coral
- B. Tree
- C. Shark

Which of the following is a consumer?

- A. Flower
- B. Fish
- C. Tree

You have completed Lesson 2: Fish Families!