



SEYMOUR CENTER AT LONG MARINE LABORATORY

“Asking Questions” Chaperone Facilitated Activities (Aquarium and seawater table/touch tank area) Kindergarten - Grade 4

Scientists are curious. They ask all kinds of questions and want to find answers. Let’s explore some of the questions scientists ask...

****NOTE: RESERVED, DOCENT-LED SCHOOL TOURS OFTEN STOP AT THE SEAWATER TABLE/TOUCH TANK FROM 10:00 – 10:30 AM and 12:00 – 12:30 PM. IF ONE OF THESE TOURS ARRIVES WHEN YOUR GROUP IS AT THE SEAWATER TABLE, PLEASE MOVE YOUR GROUP INTO THE AQUARIUM SECTION. THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION.**

The following activities are designed for the aquarium section, but can be adapted to the seawater table/touch tank.

Curious creatures

1. Keep the children in a small group and look at the aquarium displays one at a time. At each aquarium, ask what they see/observe.
2. Ask what types of questions scientists might ask when they see these creatures. Use the exhibit text at each aquarium to discuss questions and possible answers.

Camouflaged critters

1. Ask students to find the “Sandy Seafloor” tank.
2. Ask if anyone knows what it means if an animal is **camouflaged**. Discuss that many animals are able to blend in to their surroundings—by color, shape, behaviors—to hide. This helps them stay alive.
3. Which animals are well camouflaged to hide on the sandy seafloor? Discuss how the tiny sand dabs and skates are flat and match the sand color. Is the thornback ray burying itself in the sand to help blend in?
4. Look for other examples of camouflage they can find in the other tanks. Discuss what helps them blend in—is it color, shape, behavior, a combination? How many examples can you find?