



## Educational Visit Guide & Worksheets

# Sea Defenders

Teacher Visit Guide: Grades 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>

### About the Lesson

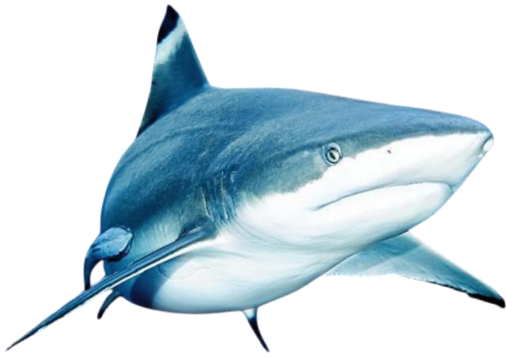
Become Sea Defenders! Investigate how important it is to protect our oceans, raising awareness of our own relationships with the ocean and how our daily actions can positively or negatively affect the marine environment. Students should be inspired to make changes in their lifestyle and actively contribute towards solutions.

### Pre-Visit & Post-Visit Activities

Our pre-visit lesson plan for parents/teachers includes a PowerPoint presentation and student activities to get you ready for a fun-filled, educational day at SEA LIFE Aquarium. Our post-visit lesson plan encouraging critical thinking and reflection on the SEA LIFE educational experience.

### Next Generation Sunshine State Science Standards

- **SC.3.L.17.3** – Recognize that animals form groups to obtain food, defend themselves, and cope with changes in the environment.
- **SC.4.L.17.4** – Recognize ways plants and animals, including humans, can impact the environment.
- **SC.4.L.16.2** – Explain that some characteristics of organisms are inherited, while others are influenced by the environment.
- **SC.4.L.17.2** – Explain that animals, including humans, have internal structures that function to support survival.
- **SC.5.L.17.2** – Recognize that some organisms are producers, consumers, and decomposers, and classify accordingly.



## Conservation Connection

Conservation is the protection of plants, animals, and our world's resources to prevent them from being lost or wasted.

No matter their size and shape, all sea creatures need our help! Use this guide to learn about the threats facing our wild friends and what SEA LIFE is doing to protect them. Look for tips on how you can become a Sea Defender, too!

## Jellyfish

Jellyfish are beautiful creatures! Sadly, their homes are being invaded by something that looks similar but is much more dangerous – plastic bags.

A plastic bag drifting through the ocean can look a lot like a jellyfish. This is especially dangerous for animals who eat jellyfish, like sea turtles, who may eat one of these bags by mistake. You can help to make the oceans safer for everyone by choosing reusable bags, bottles, and straws!



## Safe Seafood

Here at SEA LIFE, we prioritize sustainability when choosing food for our animals. That means we want our animals to eat food that is collected or farmed in a way that protects the environment.

You can choose sustainable seafood too! Scan the QR code to learn more about our partner Seafood Watch and how they can help us all to choose the safest seafood!

## Coral Reefs

Many sea creatures make their homes on coral reefs, but reefs are facing threats like changing ocean temperatures and disease. Here at SEA LIFE, we protect corals along our own coasts!

Did you know the largest barrier reef in North America is just off the coast of Florida? As part of the Florida Reef Tract Rescue Project, many SEA LIFE aquariums partner with other aquariums, zoos, and government agencies to stop the spread of disease on our reef.

You can be a coral protector too, by using reef safe sunscreen the next time you head outside for some fun in the sun!





## Stingray Shuffle

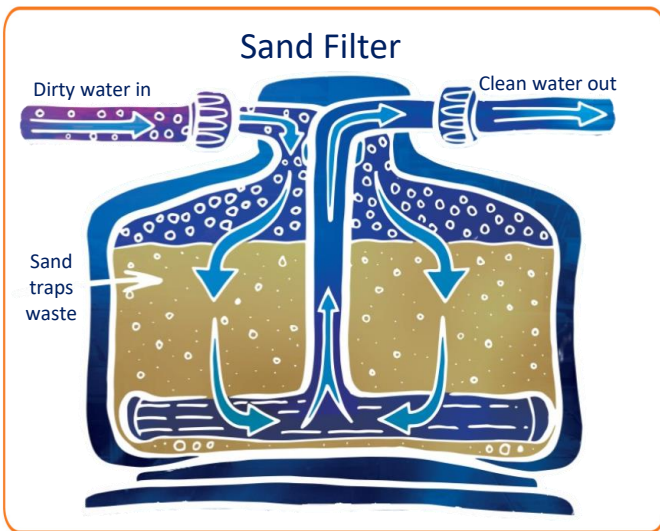
There are over 1,200 species of elasmobranchs around the world – these include stingrays, sharks and skates! These fish keep our ocean food chains in balance as apex predators or helping other animals find food by stirring up the sandy seafloor.

An easy (and fun!) way to help stingrays next time you visit the beach is by doing the 'stingray shuffle!' Shuffle your feet across the sand as you enter the water to let stingrays know you're nearby. Can you practice your best shuffle moves?

## Rockpool

Swim over to our rockpool to meet some truly awesome animals! Rockpools are made when the tide goes out, leaving some water behind in shallow pools on the shore. These are some of the most unique and diverse habitats in the world!

You can get even closer and touch the creatures living here! A SEA LIFE Ranger will show you the best way to meet the creatures – and answer any questions you might have about conserving rockpool habitats!



## Keeping it Clean!

There's a lot of water here at SEA LIFE! We always want to conserve our water, so we recycle it! One way we do so is by cleaning it with a sand filter!

Dirty water is pumped into the sand-filled filter. As the water flows down, waste and other particles are trapped in the sand. By the time the water reaches the bottom, it's clean and ready to use again!

You can do your part to conserve water too! Small actions, like turning off the tap while brushing your teeth, can have a big impact.

## SEA LIFE Trust

Did you know? There are more than 50 SEA LIFE aquariums around the world! We all work together to support our global charity, the SEA LIFE Trust, which protects the world's oceans and sea creatures.



**SEA LIFE**  
EDUCATION

**SEA LIFE TRUST**  
Protecting the World's Oceans

Scan the starfish to learn about our conservation work and how you can help.

