



Grades 7-8

All of these programs allow students to ignite their curiosity of the ocean ecosystem all around us by interacting hands-on with our animals.

We travel to you! Pricing can be found on our website.

Sharks, Skates, & Rays

🕒 45 minutes

Students will be thrilled by this engaging class that showcases the structures of cartilaginous fish that help to contribute to each other's survival and the stability of their ecosystem. We'll dispel the "sharks as monsters" myth and show students they don't need to fear sharks. We'll also discuss how sharks are at risk as their environment changes and as humans fish for them. Everyone will touch a shark and a skate!

RI GSEs: LS1, LS2, LS3
NGSS: LS2

Secrets of Survival

🕒 45 minutes

Students will see examples of adaptations and behaviors that are specific to each niche within an ecosystem in this interactive class about the many creative ways animals avoid being eaten. Protective behaviors such as camouflage, schooling and habitat selection are discussed in depth and students will see examples of how plants and animals in the same ecosystem depend on each other.

RI GSEs: LS1, LS2
NGSS: LS2

Horseshoe Crabs: Living Fossils

🕒 45 minutes

Learn about this ancient and fascinating (and misunderstood!) creature that has been on this planet for 250 million years. We'll discuss how they feed, reproduce, and protect themselves, as well as how important they are to humans and shorebirds. Students will see how the traits we discuss have helped the horseshoe crab survive for so long that it is now considered a "living fossil".

RI GSEs: LS1, LS2
NGSS: LS2

Aquarium Tank

🕒 2 or 4 weeks

Want to spend more time with our animals? We'll set up an aquarium in your classroom! We do the work so you can focus on the lessons. Each week we'll introduce a new set of animals. A curriculum guide, food, & instructions will be provided. Students will see how animals relate to each other in an ecosystem, make predictions about abiotic changes, & create food webs, as well as use a taxonomic key to identify a "mystery animal" each week.

RI GSEs: LS1, LS2 NGSS: LS2

Classification

🕒 45 minutes

This class gives students a fun look into grouping and classifying animals based on external structures. We bring animals that are easy to recognize and fall into one of four different phyla. By investigating what makes them similar and different, we can decide which phylum each belongs to. Students will be able to state the value of and reasons for classification systems while interacting with our animals!

RI GSEs: LS1, LS2, LS3
NGSS: LS2

Life Stages

🕒 45 minutes

This new and exciting class lets students investigate the life stages of three local animals from egg to adult: whelk snails, little skates, and lobsters. Students will learn how each animal reproduces and develops eggs, and how the offspring hatch and grow up to become adults - if they make it that far. We'll discuss why not all eggs will reach adulthood & how that contributes to ecosystem survival. Live & preserved animals from all life stages will be used.

RI GSEs: LS1, LS2
NGSS: LS2

Dissection Series

🕒 45 minutes

If you'd like to combine extreme learning with a moderate eww-factor, have us in for a dissection! We will lead your class through all the steps and show preserved specimens from our own collection. Animal options include squid, clams, fish, or sharks (staff dissects, students observe). Students will see firsthand the internal structures that help animals survive. Additional \$30 materials fee per class, great as an add on to our other programs!

RI GSEs: LS1, LS2, LS3
NGSS: LS2

Want less structured interaction time with our animals? We'll set up our tidepool bins with animals like starfish, sea urchins, whelks, spider crabs, as well as hermit & horseshoe crabs for hands-on exploration of the animals. We also set up a fish tank with other animals like baby skates & pipefish. Groups come visit the bins at their own pace & our staff will educate them about the animals and answer questions; everyone will come away with new knowledge!

RI GSEs: LS1, LS2

NGSS: LS2

Traveling Tidepool

🕒 2+ hours

Gills, Fins, & Scales

🕒 45 minutes

In this class, students will learn about the anatomy of bony fish, as well as their behaviors and place in the ocean ecosystem that make them so well suited for their niche. Fish have many unique behaviors and structures that allow them to survive. How the gills work, the different types of teeth, scale types, and fins are just some of the fishy facts introduced in this lesson that will have your students schooling!

RI GSEs: LS1, LS2
NGSS: LS2

Crustaceans & Exoskeletons

🕒 45 minutes

What are crustaceans? Why are exoskeletons a good defense against predators? What features & behaviors help them survive? We'll guide students through these questions & more in this class that emphasizes structure & function of crustacean anatomy, as well as recent research by one of our staff on lobsters in different environmental conditions. We'll also discuss invasive species & how they disturb the balance of local ecosystems.

RI GSEs: LS1, LS2
NGSS: LS2

Intro to Marine Animals

🕒 45 minutes

Our most popular class offering gives students the opportunity to interact with different animals, including sea stars, whelks, spider crabs, and a pufferfish. We'll also highlight who eats whom and construct a basic food web for the tidepool ecosystem that these animals call home. Students will also think about how a change in biotic or abiotic factors could affect these animals after learning about their natural environment.

RI GSEs: LS1, LS2
NGSS: LS2