

Florida Aquarium Report

Optional Extra Credit for OCE 2001

Your name _____

Course and Section No. _____

Date and time of visit _____

Please attach to your report: your ticket stub
 picture of you in front of the aquarium OR
 at an exhibit inside the aquarium

Answer ALL questions based on the exhibits at the Florida Aquarium.

Answers should be as specific as possible. When naming an animal or plant, use the specific name rather than a general category.

You may go to the aquarium with others, but the work must be your own.

Displays and organisms stocked may vary so be sure you check each question and answer thoroughly.

This report leads you along the path that a drop of water would travel from aquifer to offshore.

This completed report is due 2 weeks before Final Exam week.

NOTE: Sometimes exhibits change during the semester. If something is missing, just write. "exhibit closed."

In the lobby: Hands On Tank

There are several species in the tank.

- a. name one ray native to our area:

Ray: _____

- b. Name one animal in the petting tank and describe one interesting fact about it.

Name: _____

Fact: _____

- c. Did you pet one? _____

I. Florida Wetlands

- a. Florida Springs

Define: Aquifer _____

- b. Florida Streams

List three species found in Florida streams:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

c. Alligator OR Crocodile

What is one difference between an alligator and a crocodile?

What happens when a baby alligator in danger chirps loudly?

Describe the beak of the alligator snapping turtle _____

What is Florida's state tree? _____

What were the river otters doing when you visited them?

d. Florida Hammocks

What does elevation have to do with the location of hammocks and how is the vegetation different?

e. Florida Cypress Swamps

Is the bald cypress an evergreen?

What does the mosquito fish eat? _____

f. Invaders

Name 3 species of "invaders" to our area.

Choose one "invader" and describe

- a. Where it is from _____
- b. Which local species might it complete with? _____
- c. How did it arrive here? _____

Note: When you descend from Invaders, please back-track to Air Gardens which is next to the other display.

g. Air Gardens

Are epiphytes plants or animals?

Name one epiphyte: _____

h. Florida Mangroves

How does the red mangrove survive living in salt water?

Name 2 fish and 2 birds found in the mangroves:

Fish:

- 1. _____
- 2. _____

Birds:

- 1. _____
- 2. _____

i. Bay Shores

Why does Cassiopeia jellyfish rest upside down in shallow salt water?

II. Florida Bays and Beaches

- a. Florida's shoreline is about 8,500 miles. One advantage of an estuary is:

More than _____% of the fish and shellfish we eat come from bays and estuaries..

Animals that live on the bottom usually have this shape:

An example: _____

One advantage of schooling in fish like silversides is:

b. Watery Meadows

True or false: Seagrass beds are teeming with life.

Seagrasses: (circle all of the following that are true)

- a. provide hiding places
- b. provide food for detritivores and herbivores
- c. intercept silt, keep pollution and turbidity lower
- d. are home for tuna and mackerel
- e. are nursery grounds

c. Bay Bottoms

What are 2 of the 4 kinds of substrate found in Florida Bays?

- 1. _____
- 2. _____

What kind of bottom would be home for seahares, seahorses, pipefish, blennies and scallops? (circle only one)

- a. limestone
- b. sand
- c. seagrass

d. Bridge Pilings

Pilings, at the tidal range depths, provides a home for these species:

e. Florida Beaches

Circle all that are true of Florida beaches: unstable, unchanging, fragile, dynamic, influenced by tides, a home for specialized plants

Barrier beaches are built over _____ of years.

- f. What did you touch in the S.C.U.M. tank? _____
(S.C.U.M.: seastars, crustaceans, urchins, molluscs)

III. Florida Coral Reef

Tropical reefs occur in two of our United States. They are Florida and Hawaii.

- a. Our reefs are a part of the _____ reef system, the _____ largest in the world.

Why do they call the reef an "underwater city?"

Is coral a plant or an animal? _____

- b. Reef hideouts are used by fish to _____ or _____

c. Reef Wall

Strong currents sweep by a coral wall bringing in streams of _____

- d. Why would the queen parrotfish have "mucous pajamas?"

Which shark can lie on the bottom of the ocean and pump water over its gills without swimming?

Where would a fish go to get rid of parasites? _____

Which fish changes its sex with time? _____

Large Reef Exhibit:

Look for and check off those of the following that you observe:

- _____ Cleaner fish or shrimp eating parasites from the bodies and gills and mouths of larger fish.
- _____ Fish with stripes for camouflage. Name one: _____
- _____ Fish with dark spots that look like eyes to confuse predators.
Name one: _____
- _____ Fish with spines on the caudal peduncle that can be extended or flattened.
Name one: _____

The largest animal you observed was: _____

The slowest animal you observed was: _____

If you touch this coral with bare skin, it will burn and/or sting:
(Coral Alive! exhibit) _____

Where does the aquarium get its coral for its coral reef community?

Dragons Down Under

Who gives birth to the young seahorses, the mother or father? _____

Describe the courtship behavior of one species of seahorse. _____

If humans destroy all the seagrass beds or catch and sell too many seahorses, what will happen to seahorses? _____

Did you ever see anything quite so incredible as the leafy sea dragon? _____

How is the pipe fish like the seahorse? _____

How is the trumpet fish like the seahorse? _____

IV. Florida Offshore

Sea Hunt Displays

- a. Medusoids
Are jellyfish considered plankton (possible drifters) or nekton (active swimmers)? _____

Circle all that are TRUE: Jelly fish:

- a. are predators
- b. have stinging tentacles
- c. feed on phytoplankton
- d. have a mouth

- b. Cuttlefish - did you see: cuttlefish? chambered nautilus?
Which one has an external shell? _____

- c. Angler Fish
What does the Angler fish use to lure prey? _____

- d. Dive with the Sharks
Which sharks hunt in shallow water near coasts? _____
What does "cloaking" mean? _____

The sea turtle is _____ when young. Adults are _____

- e. What is the natural range of the Lionfish? _____

- f. Reef sector
Name one reef hunter. _____

- g. Symbionts
What are the 2 members of the symbiont pair on display?

1. _____

2. _____

What advantage does each have because of this symbiotic relationship?

1. _____

2. _____

You have followed water from:



How does water get back to the aquifer? _____

Which exhibit do you think you learned the most from (and why)?
