

Invertebrate Behavior and Morphology Lab

Grade Level: All

Timing: 1 hour

Summary: Marine invertebrates exhibit a variety of behavioral and morphological adaptations which allow them to survive in various habitats within the marine environment. Students will observe some of these adaptations firsthand while conducting short experiments. The observations are meant to allow students to draw conclusions regarding the invertebrates in situ behavior but also make the students begin to ask questions.

** advanced option available **

Program Objectives:

Students will be able to...

- Give an example of the correlation between invertebrate behavior and morphology
- Use a dichotomous key to identify three different invertebrates

Concepts Covered:

- Unique behavior mechanisms among marine invertebrates
- Correlation between behavior and morphology
- What invertebrate morphology and behavior can tell us about the invertebrate's niche and the environment it lives in
- How to use a dichotomous key
- Common characteristics among species within a phylum and the different uses of these characteristics among these species
- The role of observation in scientific research

Vocabulary: invertebrate/vertebrate, behavior, dichotomous key, morphology, observation

Procedures: Instructor will discuss behavior and morphology and how these two concepts are related to each other and to specific invertebrate adaptations. Each group will be given species from a specific phylum. They will use a dichotomous key to determine the species in their bucket and the phylum they belong to. Students will conduct experiments as described and will share observations with peers. The importance of observation in the scientific method is emphasized.

Resources: www.biologicaldiversity.org, "Animal Behavior," Drickamer, Vessey, and Meikle, www.scienceclarified.com



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Standards:

Next Generation Sunshine State Standards

SC.5.L.15.1: Describe how, when the environment changes, differences between individuals allow some plants and animals to survive and reproduce while others die or move to new locations.

SC.5.L.14.2: Compare and contrast the function of organs and other physical structures of plants and animals, including humans, for example: some animals have skeletons for support -- some with internal skeletons others with exoskeletons - while some plants have stems for support.

SC.6.N.1.5: Recognize that science involves creativity, not just in designing experiments, but also in creating explanations that fit evidence.

SC.7.L.17.2: Compare and contrast the relationships among organisms such as mutualism, predation, parasitism, competition, and commensalism.

SC.8.N.1.2: Design and conduct a study using repeated trials and replication.

SC.912.N.1.6: Describe how scientific inferences are drawn from scientific observations and provide examples from the content being studied.

SC.912.N.1.7: Recognize the role of creativity in constructing scientific questions, methods and explanations.

Ocean Literacy Principles

Principle 5. The ocean supports a great diversity of life and ecosystems.

d. Ocean biology provides many unique examples of life cycles, adaptations and important relationships among organisms (symbiosis, predator-prey dynamics, and energy transfer) that do not occur on land.



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