

## ADAPTATIONS

An adaptation is a physical feature an animal has or a behavior it uses to help it survive in its habitat. Adaptations can help animals find food, choose a mate and avoid predators. Animals at Adventure Aquarium have adaptations that help them survive living in or near water.

### Zone A

Seahorses are a very unique fish. Their adaptations will remind you of other animals, so unscramble the words below to learn more.

They have a head like a horse (seohr) with a narrow mouth for sucking in food.

They have a prehensile tail like a monkey (konmey) that lets them cling to seaweed and kelp.

They can change color like a chameleon (amchelnoe) to camouflage them from predators

Males have a pouch like a kangaroo (angkroao) to carry their babies.



The Migration March exhibit is home to 2 species of lobster with very different adaptations. How are these lobsters different from the ones you see in the supermarket? **The spiny lobster has long antennae and short front claws. The regal slipper lobster also has small front claws. Lobsters in the supermarket have smaller antenna and large front claws.**

Each has a unique way of protecting itself from predators.

How does the spiny lobster protect itself? **They wave their antennae to scare off predators.**

How does the regal slipper lobster protect itself? **They use camouflage to hide in the rocks.**

Sea turtles have characteristics that they share with their land-based relatives, but they also have physical features that make them suited for spending time in the ocean. Find our 2 species of sea turtles in Ocean Realm.

What features do they share with their land-based relatives? **Shell covering most of their body.**

What features do they have that make them suited for spending time in the water? **Flippers, not legs.**

### Zone B

Stingrays are related to sharks, and they share several adaptations, but they also look very different.

Stingrays are flat and their gills and mouth are on the bottom side of their bodies.

Describe how a stingray moves and how their body shape helps them get around. **They have fins shaped like wings, which they flap to move through the water.**



Based on the location of their mouth, where do you think they find most of their food? **The ocean floor.**

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### Zone C

Some animals get help from other animals. Find the clownfish exhibit. Many species of clownfish live happily together with sea anemones. How do they benefit from living together? ***Clownfish clean and feed anemones while the anemone provides cover and protection for the clownfish.***

How does the clownfish protect themselves from the anemone's stinging tentacles? ***They have a slimy coating.***

In very rough-moving water, such as a tide pool, some animals have found ways to hang on to rocks and other objects to keep from getting injured. Which animal below found in Zone C will stick and stay put. Circle your answer.



Sea Cucumber



Cleaner Shrimp



Sea Star



Clownfish

### Zone D



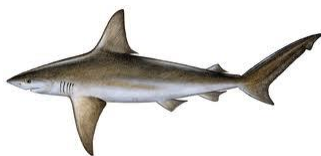
Our hippos, Genny and Button, are mammals that spend a great deal of time in the water. Why are their eyes, nostrils and ears located on the top of their head?

***So they can see, breathe and hear when submerged in the water.***

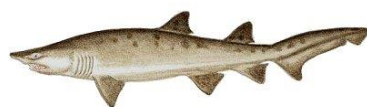
The sea jellies and giant Pacific octopus have some very unique behaviors and adaptations that have helped them for millions of years. Explain how each has survived extinction so far. ***Jellies have broad diets, reproduce quickly, and tolerate degraded habitats in water with little oxygen. The octopus can live deep in the ocean protected from extreme environmental changes because it has no shell.***

Sharks have dorsal fins on their back which help them keep their balance as they swim. You can identify our sharks by the position of their dorsal fins. Can you find these sharks in Shark Realm?

Sandbar Shark



Sand Tiger Shark



Sharks use their teeth for ripping meat, not chewing. Name the 3 main shark tooth designs. ***Crushing teeth, serrated teeth and dagger-like teeth.***

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