

# **MAST ACADEMY OUTREACH**

## **MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM**

### **Adventures Aboard The Land SHARC (Science Hands-On And Related Careers)**

#### **On-Site Package**



**MAST Academy**

**Maritime and Science Technology High School**

**Miami-Dade County Public Schools**

**Miami, Florida**

**MAST ACADEMY OUTREACH**  
**LAND SHARC MIDDLE SCHOOL ON-SITE PACKET**  
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The “thinking” symbol appears beside all critical thinking questions.  
Teamwork will be required to answer these questions.

## “UNDER PRESSURE”

## WET LAB DOCK MARINE BIOLOGIST

Pressure affects creatures that live in the deepest parts of the ocean by pressing against their bodies. The pressure of water changes with depth. To observe the effect of depth on water pressure, follow the directions on the poster on the table and answer the following questions.

1. From which hole does the water come out the farthest? a. top hole b. bottom hole

2. Is the water pressure greater at the top of the pitcher or the bottom of the pitcher?

Explain your answer. \_\_\_\_\_



3. What do fish that live in the deep ocean have to be adapted to in order to survive? \_\_\_\_\_

Read the following information and then answer the questions that follow.

Fish in the deepest parts of the ocean live in total darkness; many glow in the dark (are bioluminescent). Bioluminescence helps them attract prey. However, these fish may also attract predators. Therefore, bioluminescence is an advantage when attracting prey and a disadvantage when attracting predators.

4. What two things can be attracted to a fish that is bioluminescent? \_\_\_\_\_

Marine biologists must make careful observations of animals when they study them in the ocean. They have found that deep water animals have unusual body parts that help them survive. Pretend you are a marine biologist. Look at the plastic models of deep-water fish in the aquarium. They are labeled A – F. Read the following descriptions and write the letter of the fish that matches the description in the table below.

Description	Letter
The Dragonfish has a long scaleless body, strong jaws and needle-like teeth. The female has a long, slender, sensory barbel under her chin.	
The Gulper Eel is a distant relative of the river eel. It has tiny eyes and teeth and a large umbrella shaped mouth.	
The Hatchetfish has light gray, luminescent (glowing) skin on the bottom and darker gray skin on top. It has large, bulging eyes and an upward-slanting mouth.	
The Viperfish has a long body and extremely large teeth, especially the front two on the bottom of its mouth. It has a long, slender lure in front of the dorsal fin.	
The Anglerfish lures prey with a long, slender lure between its eyes. It has needle-like teeth.	
The Loosejaw lives in the murky depths of all oceans. There are three rows of green, luminescent (glowing) spots running along its body. It has large eyes and needle-like teeth.	



5. What unusual body parts do you see on the fish that would help them to adapt to deep water? \_\_\_\_\_

(When finished, go to page 2, the “Plankton” Dock.)

**“PLANKTON”**

**Introduction:** Phytoplankton are tiny plants that must float to remain near the ocean’s surface for sunlight. Phytoplankton can have spines and bristles to keep them afloat. Having a round shape or being a long chain also helps them float because it increases surface area. Phytoplankton move with the ocean currents. Zooplankton, such as copepods and invertebrate larvae, do not have to stay near the surface so they have appendages (arms or legs) to help them swim. At night, they search for food in the light zone when they are less likely to be seen by predators. During the day, they swim to darker, deeper zones to escape from predators.

Look at the plankton models on the table. You are going to do an experiment to find out which plankton models are sinkers and which models are floaters. First, state your hypotheses by completing the sentences below.

**My first hypothesis is that (circle as many as you think apply) Plankton A, Plankton B, Plankton C or Plankton D are sinkers.**

**My second hypothesis is that (circle as many as you think apply) Plankton A, Plankton B, Plankton C or Plankton D are floaters.**

1. Place Plankton A in the graduated cylinder. In the table data below, check off if it is a floater or sinker.
2. If it does not sink, reach in and remove it before testing the next model. If it does sink, pour the water from the graduated cylinder into the pitcher and remove the model. Then pour the water back into the graduated cylinder to test the next model.
3. Repeat steps 1 and 2 for Plankton B, Plankton C, and Plankton D.

Plankton	Floater	Sinker
A		
B		
C		
D		

**My first hypothesis was (circle one) supported or not supported by the experiment.**  
**My second hypothesis was (circle one) supported or not supported by the experiment.**

**Questions**

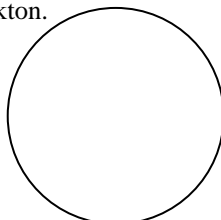


1. Are any of the plankton models floaters? (circle all that apply) **A B C D**
2. Do you think these models represent (circle one) **phytoplankton** or **zooplankton**?
3. Explain your answer to #2 by using information from the Introduction.



4. Are any of the plankton models sinkers ? (circle all that apply) **A B C D**
5. Do you think these plankton model represent (circle one) **phytoplankton** or **zooplankton**?
6. Explain your answer to #5 by using information from the Introduction.
7. Which plankton models are best equipped for escaping prey? Explain why.

On the laptop computer screen, different types of plankton are magnified using a microscope. To the lower right is a microscopic slide with a small red circle. Click on the red circle to move to another area on the slide and see more plankton types. Search for one that matches any of the plankton on the poster on the table. Draw it in the circle below and identify it as phytoplankton or zooplankton.



Circle one: **Phytoplankton** or **Zooplankton**  
 Explain your answer.

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(When finished, turn to page 3, the “Sponges” Dock.)

## "SPONGES"

Sponges are in the phylum called Porifera. This is because they all have pores that create a lot of empty space inside. This allows sponges to hold large amounts of water in comparison to their weight. Sponges have needle-like spicules throughout their bodies that are composed of hard substances like calcium carbonate or silica. Different types of sponges have different types of spicules. Observe the sponge spicules using the compound microscope. Compare what you see to the spicule drawings below.

1. **Circle the drawing that is similar to the spicules you see in the microscope.**

a.



b.



c.



d.



2. **Spicules help to maintain the shape of the sponge. If the sponge had no spicules, how would the weight of water it absorbs change its shape?** \_\_\_\_\_

Follow the directions to find out just how much water a sponge can hold. Directions for using the balance are on the laminated poster on the table.

3. Place a small piece of dry sponge on the balance scoop and find its weight.

**What does the dry sponge weigh?** \_\_\_\_\_ g.

4. Place the piece of sponge in the beaker of water. Remove the wet sponge from the beaker and squeeze out extra water. Place the wet sponge on the balance and find its weight.

**What does the wet sponge weigh?** \_\_\_\_\_ g

5. To find the weight of the water in the sponge, subtract the weight of the dry sponge from the weight of the wet sponge.

**The weight of the wet sponge** \_\_\_\_\_ g

**minus the weight of the dry sponge** \_\_\_\_\_ g

**equals the weight of the water** \_\_\_\_\_ g

6. Sponges can hold more water than their own weight. To find how much water the sponge is holding in comparison to its weight, divide the weight of the water by the weight of the dry sponge.

**weight of water (divided by)** \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_ **The sponge can hold this many times its weight in water.**

(When finished, go to page 4, the "Turtle Grass Community" Dock.)

**"TURTLE GRASS COMMUNITY"**

Choose any 3 of the marine organisms (living things) and complete the chart below. Refer to the information on the poster located on the table to answer the questions in the last 2 columns.



**Drawing of Organism      What phylum is it in?      What does your organism have in common with other organisms in the same phylum?**


Read the information about seagrasses on the poster located on the table to answer the following questions.



**1. Turtle grass (and other sea grasses) provide many things for the organisms that live in their community. Name two (2) reasons that sea grasses are so important and should be protected.**

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**2. Name two reasons why Florida's valuable sea grasses are disappearing at an alarming rate.**

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(When finished, go to page 5, the "Watery Wanderings" Dock.)

**"WATERY WANDERINGS"**

**Refractometer:** The normal salinity of sea water ranges from 30 - 35 ‰ (30 - 35 grams of dissolved substances in 1000 grams of water.) Brackish water is a mixture of freshwater and seawater and tends to have a much lower salinity. Pure water has a salinity of zero.

Follow the directions on the table to use the refractometer to measure the salinity of the water in the beaker and then answer the following questions.

1. What is the salinity of the water you tested? \_\_\_\_\_ parts per thousand

2. Is the water you tested seawater, brackish water, or pure water? \_\_\_\_\_

**Hydrochloric Acid Test:** Read the information about calcium carbonate before doing the next test.

Calcium carbonate is found in many living things or parts of once living things such as shells from snails, clams, etc. It has the chemical formula  $\text{CaCO}_3$ . **Hydrochloric acid is used as a test for  $\text{CaCO}_3$ .** The chemical formula for hydrochloric acid is  $\text{HCl}$ . **If hydrochloric acid is added to a substance containing calcium carbonate, a chemical reaction occurs releasing the gas carbon dioxide ( $\text{CO}_2$ ) and you will see bubbling.** You are going to test two samples of sand to see if calcium carbonate is present. One sample is from South Florida which has many shell pieces in it. The other sample is quartz sand and has no shell pieces in it.

Follow the directions for the hydrochloric acid test and answer the following questions.

**PUT ON GOGGLES FOR SAFETY!**

3. In which test tube do you see bubbling? (Circle your answer.)

(A) quartz sand                      OR                      (B) South Florida sand



4. Which sand has  $\text{CaCO}_3$  in it? (Reread the paragraph above about the Hydrochloric Acid Test.)



5. Where does the  $\text{CaCO}_3$  in South Florida sand come from?

(When finished, go to page 6, the "Every Picture Tells a Story" Dock.)

**“EVERY PICTURE TELLS A STORY”**

1. You will document your experience aboard the Land SHARC by using the digital camera to take two photos of any of the Land SHARC docks and then writing about your photographs.
2. Look around and find something you want to photograph. If you are waiting to use the camera, you can look around, decide on what you want to photograph and start writing your story (see #3 below) before you take your photographs.
3. Write a story about each photograph. Use complete sentences in your story. Think about who or what is in your picture. If a person is in your photograph, what is he or she doing? If a computer is in your photograph, what is on the screen? If a piece of equipment or an instrument is in your photograph, what is it used for?

**FIRST PHOTOGRAPH**

**This is a photograph of** \_\_\_\_\_

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**SECOND PHOTOGRAPH**

**This is a photograph of** \_\_\_\_\_

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(When finished, go to page 7, the “Coral Reefs: Living Communities” Dock.)



**“CORAL REEFS: LIVING COMMUNITIES”**

Before you is the command deck of your coral reef-exploring submarine. Here will learn about the environmental conditions needed for coral reefs to survive.

1. Turn on the headphones and place them on your head.
2. Click on “Living Communities,”  the third orange icon from the left in the middle of the screen.
3. Click on the globe at the upper left-hand side of the screen to see a video about coral reefs. Answer the following questions:

**Question 1 – There are few seasonal changes in water around coral reefs.** True False

**Question 2 - Water around coral reefs must be clear for sunlight to penetrate.** True False

**Question 3 - There is little species diversity in a coral reef.** True False

4. After viewing the video, click twice on the black arrow in the bottom right-hand corner of the screen.
5. You will see a map with shaded areas representing locations of coral reefs around the world. Answer the following questions:

**Question 4 – Coral reefs are primarily located between what two latitude lines? (circle two)**

**Equator**

**Tropic of Cancer**

**Tropic of Capricorn**

**Question 5 – What are the two states in the United States where coral reefs are found?**




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6. Click on “Temperature” at the top of the screen.

**Question 6 – Most coral reefs need temperatures above \_\_\_\_\_ °C or \_\_\_\_\_ °F to survive.**

7. Click on “Salinity.”



**Question 7 – Which salinity range do most coral reefs prefer? \_\_\_\_\_**

8. Click “Living Communities,”  the icon in the lower left corner of the screen to go back to the lab.
9. Click on the sub icon  in the lower left corner of the screen to go back to the sub.
10. Click on “Change and Evolution,”  the 6<sup>th</sup> orange icon from the left.
11. Click on the aquarium at the top left of the screen to view the video "Coral Stresses." Answer the following questions:

**Question 8 – Where are most stressed reefs located? \_\_\_\_\_**

**Question 9 - Name one natural phenomena that causes coral stress. \_\_\_\_\_**

**Question 10 – Name one human produced stress of corals. \_\_\_\_\_**

12. When you are finished, click on “Change and Evolution,”  the icon at the lower left of the screen.
13. Click on the sub icon  at the lower left corner of the screen to go back to the sub.
14. Turn off headphones and return them to the pegs.

(When finished, go to page 8, the “Sharks!!” Dock.)

**“SHARKS!!”**

1. Click on “Video Gallery.”
2. You are going to view a movie called, “Jaws: Then and Now.” Click on the shark picture at the bottom center of the screen to see the video. Answer the following questions.

**Question 1 – What effect did the movie “Jaws” have on the hunting and slaughtering of sharks?**

- a. It increased.                      b. It decreased                      c. It stayed the same.

**Question 2 – From what TV show did the Land SHARC get its name?**

- a. Flipper                      b. Gilligan’s Island                      c. Saturday Night Live

**Question 3 – What effect did the book “White Shark” have on shark populations?**

- a. shark protection increased                      b. shark protection decreased                      c. no effect

3. After watching the video, click on “Main Menu.”
4. Click on “Ask the Experts.”
5. Click on the question, “What’s our biggest misconception of sharks?”
6. Click on each scientist and listen to his/her comments. Use a line to connect each expert with the misconception that best matches their response to the question.

**Question 4. Dr. Samuel Gruber**

- a. Going in shark infested water is more dangerous than crossing the street.

**Question 5. Dr. Jose Castro**

- b. Sharks eat everything they come in contact with.

**Question 6. Dr. Eugenia Clark**

- c. Sharks make their living eating people.

**Question 7. Dr. Charles Manire**

- d. Sharks have many variations in size, shape, behavior, etc.

7. Click on the question, “What’s most fascinating about sharks?”
8. Listen to each scientist and match each expert with his/her answer.

**Question 8. Dr. Samuel Gruber**

- a. Sharks can learn and remember months later.

**Question 9. Dr. Jose Castro**

- b. We know very little about shark behavior and physiology.

**Question 10. Dr. Eugenia Clark**

- c. Sharks have the ability to “home.”

**Question 11. Dr. Charles Manire**

- d. The myth of the shark’s being a mindless eating machine is wild.



**Question 12** – How has the information presented in this lesson changed your opinion of sharks? \_\_\_\_

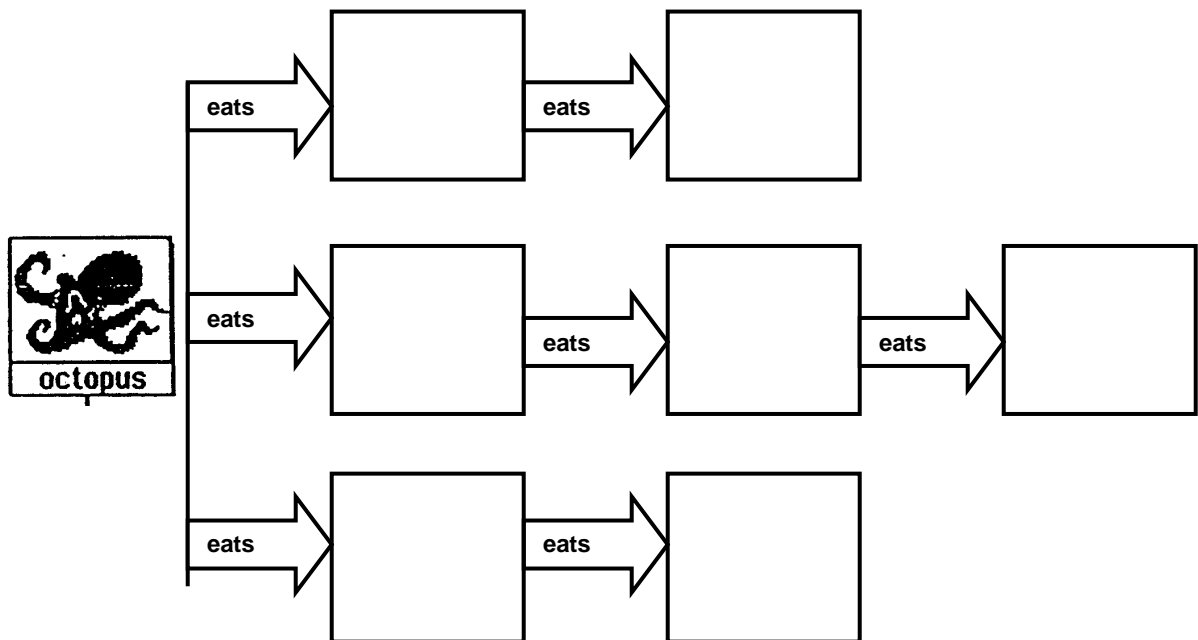
Click on “Back” to return to the main screen.

(When finished, go to page 9, the “Marine Food Chains” Dock.)

**“MARINE FOOD CHAINS”**

The red octopus has a varied diet. Thus, there are several different food chains that begin with the red octopus. In this lesson, you will create three food chains for the red octopus.

1. At the top of the screen, click on the words “Food Chain.”
2. Select red octopus. Follow the directions in the lower right hand corner of the screen to create the first food chain.
3. When the food chain is complete, click once to see a diagram of it.
4. Using page 11 of your packet, cut out the pictures of the marine organisms in the food chain and paste them in the appropriate places in the diagram below using the glue sticks. If the first food chain consists of two organisms plus the octopus, paste them in the first row. If the first food chain consists of three organisms plus the octopus, paste them in the second row.



5. Click on the red octopus to create a second food chain beginning with the red octopus and repeat steps 3 – 4.
6. Click again on the red octopus to create a third food chain beginning with red octopus and repeat steps 3 – 4.
7. Return scissors and glue sticks to the small basket and dispose of scrap paper in the waste basket.



8. What organisms in the food chain would be affected if the topsnail became extinct? How would they be affected? \_\_\_\_\_

Click on the small picture in the lower left hand corner to return to the beginning.

(When finished, go to page 10, the “Where Can You See Whales?” Dock.)

**“WHERE CAN YOU SEE WHALES?”**

In this lesson you will learn about where you can see whales during different months of the year.

1. Turn on the headphones and place them on your head. Click on the picture of the boat.
2. Click on R-RUN to watch the movie and answer the questions below.

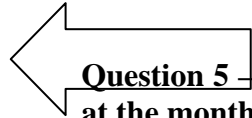
**Question 1 - What is the best time to watch whales in Baja?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Question 2- What type of whale can you see here?** \_\_\_\_\_

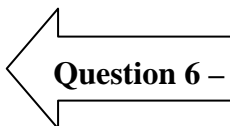
3. Click on the movie when it stops. Turn off the headphones and return them to the pegs on the wall.
4. Click on the map under the movie.
5. Click on the words, “Key to Whale Species” in the lower right corner of the screen.
6. What whale is present in January? Use the “Key to Whale Species” to identify it.
7. In the data table below, check off the whale in the row labeled January.
8. Click on March. Identify the whales present and check them off in the data table.
9. Repeat #8 for May, June and September.

Month	Gray	Right	Bow-head	Beluga	Blue	Hump-back	Minke	Fin	Pilot	Sperm	Killer
January											
March											
May											
June											
September											

Answer the following questions.



**Question 5 –** What month would you go whale watching to see sperm whales? (Hint: Look at the months not in the chart above.) \_\_\_\_\_

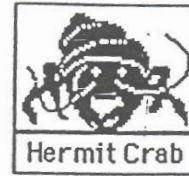
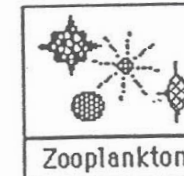
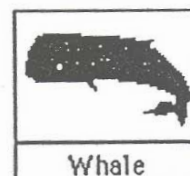
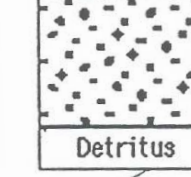
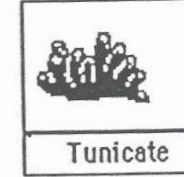
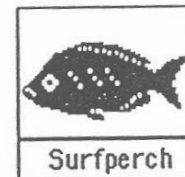
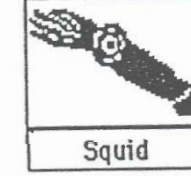
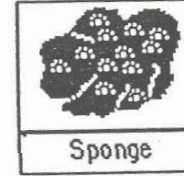
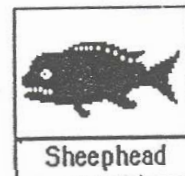
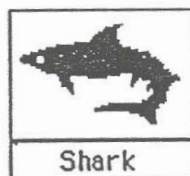
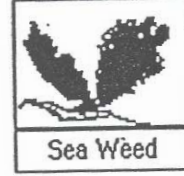
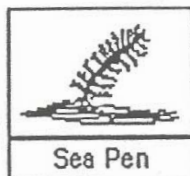
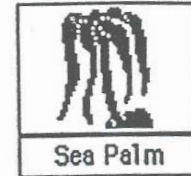
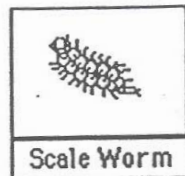
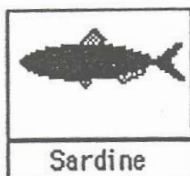
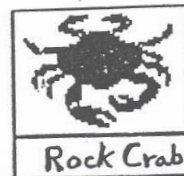


**Question 6 –** Where would you go to see sperm whales? \_\_\_\_\_

Click on “Whale Calendar” in the upper right corner.

(When finished, click on the map to return to the main screen. Go to page 1, the “Under Pressure” dock.

# Organism Pictures



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Revised 5/9/03