

Conservation Classroom Educator's Guide

Aquatic Animal Adventures

Conservation Classroom: Aquatic Animal Adventures is best suited for grades K-5 and consists of four elements: wonder, engage, act, and connect. All materials for this lesson are available on the [Zoo's website](#) and [Smithsonian Learning Lab](#).

1 - WONDER

Pre-program video that introduces the monthly topic.

- ❑ **Watch the Aquatic Animal Adventures "I Wonder" video.**
- ❑ **Review terms with your students.** You may wish to introduce or review the terms: habitat, adaptation, mammal, aquatic, marine, endangered, conservation, and zoo.
- ❑ **Ask students what else they wonder about aquatic animal adaptations.** Bring these questions to the live program to ask the zoo educators and animal keepers.

2 - ENGAGE

Live, 45-minute virtual program with a Zoo educator.

- ❑ **Register for Aquatic Animal Adventures on Tuesday, October 18 at 2 p.m. EDT.**
 - Audio and video are disabled but we encourage active participation using polls, emojis, Q&A, and chat. Keep a keyboard close or have students join from individual devices.
 - **ASL TIP:** If you would like to see the ASL interpreter, we recommend joining on a computer instead of a phone or tablet so the interpreter will be visible the entire time.
 - If you have questions or special requests, please email NZP-Education@si.edu.
 - Can't join live? Check our website for the recording approx. 48 hours after the live program.

3 - ACT

Synchronous and asynchronous activities to extend the lesson.

- ❑ **Print and distribute the [follow-along activity](#).** Have students complete this quick activity during the program or check their knowledge after the program.
 - Answer Key: 1. A, C, D | 2. Beaver-River/Lake, River otter-River, Seal-Ocean
- ❑ **Print and distribute the superhero [post-program activity](#).**
 - Allow students time to draw their own aquatic animal superhero.
 - Ask (or help) students to fill in the blanks at the bottom of the page.
- ❑ **Send us your drawings!** We'd love to see your child's or student's superhero drawings. Send them to the Zoo's education team at nzp-education@si.edu and we will send a "thank you" to your class/group/student(s). Note: All submitted artwork is for internal staff review. On occasion, we may contact you asking for written guardian consent to use or share a drawing(s) but will not use or share the drawing(s) without written permission.

4 - CONNECT

Video that connects students to staff with "unZOOsual" careers.

- ❑ **Watch the Aquatic Animal Adventures [career connection video](#) of Vivian, Life Support Systems (LSS) Operator.**
 - Discuss how an LSS Operator uses science, technology, engineering, and math.
 - Ask students to think about other careers related to aquatic animals.