



Alligator Gar

Alligator gar may have intimidating teeth, but they are only dangerous for smaller fish!



Alligator Gar

Alligator gar have explosive growth in their first year of life.



Alligator Gar

Common foods for the alligator gar include common carp, river carpsucker, buffalo species, gizzard shad, and the white bass.



Alligator Gar

Alligator gar, an apex predator, provide an ecological balance that helps to regulate the populations of other fish species.



Archer Fish

Archer fish are a freshwater fish native to Southeast Asia and named for their amazing aim!



Archer Fish

There are seven different species of archer fish.



Archer Fish

Archer fish have a groove along the roof of their mouth that controls the direction of the stream of water they spit to knock their prey into the water.



Archer Fish

Archer fish are incredibly accurate up to 12 feet and deadly accurate up to 6 feet.





Blue Tang

Blue tangs actually start their lives yellow. The appearance of many reef fish changes drastically from juvenile to adult. The bright and unique colors help fish hide among the colorful reef.



Blue Tang

The home of the blue tang are the coral reefs that grow along the ocean's shores. They live in the Pacific Ocean, but can also be found from East Africa to Micronesia or even in the Indian Ocean.



Blue Tang

Since the blue tang eats excess algae in the reef, which prevents a coral from suffocating, these fish are considered to be very important to the lifecycle of the coral reef.



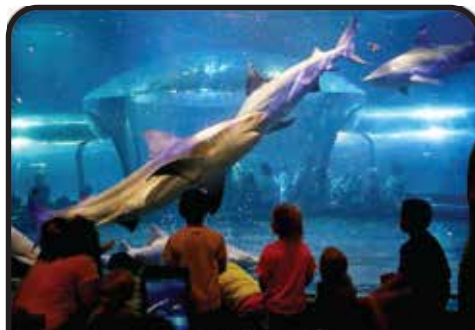
Blue Tang

Blue tangs, like all surgeonfish, have a scalpel-like blade at the base of their caudal (tail) fin for defense.



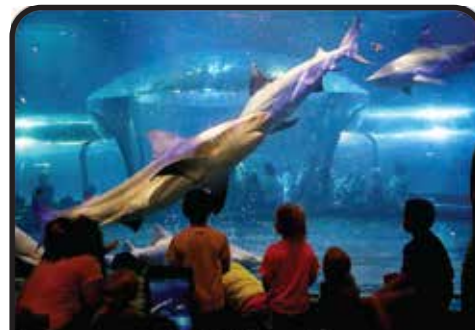
Bull Shark

The Oklahoma Aquarium houses the world's largest collection of bull sharks!



Bull Shark

Bull sharks are common in warm, shallow ocean water, but they also have the unique ability to travel between both fresh and saltwater.



Bull Shark

Bull sharks have the strongest bite force per pound. Their bite is even stronger than a great white shark depending on their size!



Bull Shark

Bull sharks get their name from their short, blunt snout, as well as their pugnacious disposition and tendency to head-butt their prey before attacking.





Clownfish

Bright orange with three distinctive white bars, clown anemonefish are among the most recognizable of all reef-dwellers.



Clownfish

Clownfish have a unique dance with an anemone until moving in. They must gently touch its tentacles with different parts of their bodies until they are bonded to their host.



Clownfish

Surprisingly, all clownfish are born male. They have the ability to change their sex, but will only do so to become the dominate female of a group.



Clownfish

Clownfish cannot survive without their host anemone, whose stinging tentacles protect them from harm.



Giant Pacific Octopus

Captive octopuses entertain themselves by shooting water at targets. (Our biologists!)



Giant Pacific Octopus

Giant Pacific octopuses have three hearts and 8 arms (not tentacles) and can survive with only two hearts.



Giant Pacific Octopus

The giant Pacific octopus can reach up to 20 feet in size and is the largest species of octopus.



Giant Pacific Octopus

The giant octopus inspired many tales of a creature that would pluck sailors from their ships when out at sea!





Parrot Fish

When a dominate male dies or becomes ill, the largest female will become a "supermale", changing sex to become the new dominate male.



Parrot Fish

The largest herbivorous fish in the Atlantic are parrotfish species.



Parrot Fish

Most of the sand on a beach is parrotfish poop! They excrete undigested coral, creating that beautiful white sand we love to dig our toes in.



Parrot Fish

Parrotfish have large beaks that they use to crunch on coral to get to the algae-filled polyps inside.



Potbelly Seahorse

This is one of the largest species of seahorses in the world, as they average about 12 inches in length.



Potbelly Seahorse

The coastal areas of New Zealand and Australia are where you will find this species of seahorse living.



Potbelly Seahorse

Females will deposit eggs from her body into the pouch on the male. As many as 700 eggs may be deposited during this period.



Potbelly Seahorse

They feed on a variety of small crustaceans that are mainly found around the seaweed. They use their snout like a straw, sucking in the food and swallowing it whole!





Porcupine Pufferfish

All porcupine Pufferfish species have jaws with two fused teeth, which make them somewhat similar to parrots.



Porcupine Pufferfish

The porcupine pufferfish gets its name from the sharp spines that stick out when it inflates with water.



Porcupine Pufferfish

The pufferfish defends itself from predation by inflating its body with water. They become a large spiky ball that is very hard to eat.



Porcupine Pufferfish

One of the unique qualities of pufferfish is that they are capable to maneuver their eyes independently.



Regal Angelfish

The beautiful markings of this angel definitely make it worthy of its royal name. Depending on where they are found, there are slight differences in their colors.



Regal Angelfish

Color on the reef is very important for camouflage. Both the bright colors and stripes are confusing for predators.



Regal Angelfish

They do not live in schools like many fish; regal angels are shy and tend to be solitary.



Regal Angelfish

These angels are omnivorous, eating algae and small organisms, but their favorite food is sponge.





Loggerhead Sea Turtle

Like all seven species, loggerheads are listed as endangered or threatened globally. Their populations are threatened by pollution, fishing practices, and development of their nesting beaches.



Loggerhead Sea Turtle

Females return to the exact beach they hatched from to lay their eggs.



Loggerhead Sea Turtle

The loggerhead is considered a "keystone species," meaning that other animals in its ecosystem depend on it for survival.



Loggerhead Sea Turtle

Persistent population declines due to pollution, shrimp trawling, and development in their nesting areas, among other factors, have kept this wide-ranging seagoer listed as threatened under the U.S. Endangered Species Act since 1978.



Spotted Jellyfish

White-spotted jellies are native to the warm, tropical waters of the western Pacific Ocean, from Oceania through East Asia.



Spotted Jellyfish

White-spotted jellies are filter feeders, like oysters or sponges. They can filter more than 1,500-cubic feet of seawater every day!



Spotted Jellyfish

Because white-spotted jellies often travel in large groups called swarms or smacks, they can disrupt the entire ecosystem of an area by consuming almost all the plankton.



Spotted Jellyfish

Jellyfish are related to coral and anemones. They all have nematocysts, or stinging cells for defense and predation.





Zebra Shark

The zebra shark is a large, distinctive shark that lives in shallow coral reef habitats in tropical waters where they can wriggle into narrow crevices and caves in search of food.



Zebra Shark

Zebra sharks are often confused with leopard sharks because they are born dark brown with white bars across their bodies, but become light yellow with small dark spots as they mature.



Zebra Shark

During daylight, the zebra shark prefers to rest on the ocean floor facing the current so they can efficiently pump water over their gills and breathe while remaining still.



Zebra Shark

Adult zebra sharks are non-aggressive, and have few predators other than larger shark species.



Instructions

1. Cut out each card.
2. Shuffle all the cards and pass them out.
3. Match all four of the same animal to create a book.
4. Once a book is complete, read all the fun facts outloud!
5. The person with the most books wins.