

Recommended for
Grades 6-8

THE FLORIDA
AQUARIUM 

Let's Go on a Scavenger Hunt!

Wetlands Gallery

Be prepared for a wet and wild time! Keep one eye trained toward the sky – you may see free-flying birds!

1. From where do most Floridians get their drinking water?
2. What are some differences between an alligator and a crocodile? Which one is more common in this part of Florida?
3. Name three physical characteristics of an otter that contribute to its powerful swimming capabilities.
4. After otter pups are born in early spring, which parent is responsible for feeding and caring for the new offspring?
5. What is the state tree of Florida?
6. Observe turtle behavior in the cypress swamp. Males have long claws on their front feet, which they fan in the females face – always trying to impress! Can you spot this crazy courtship or any other odd behaviors?
7. Speaking of trees, which type of tree in Florida is an important habitat for birds and juvenile fish? _____



Aquariumania

Head up the stairs to the wetlands overlook.

Do you keep fish at home? If so, you may recognize some of them here!

8. Name at least three fish in the Great Tank exhibit.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

9. Why is Florida such an ideal place for fish farms?

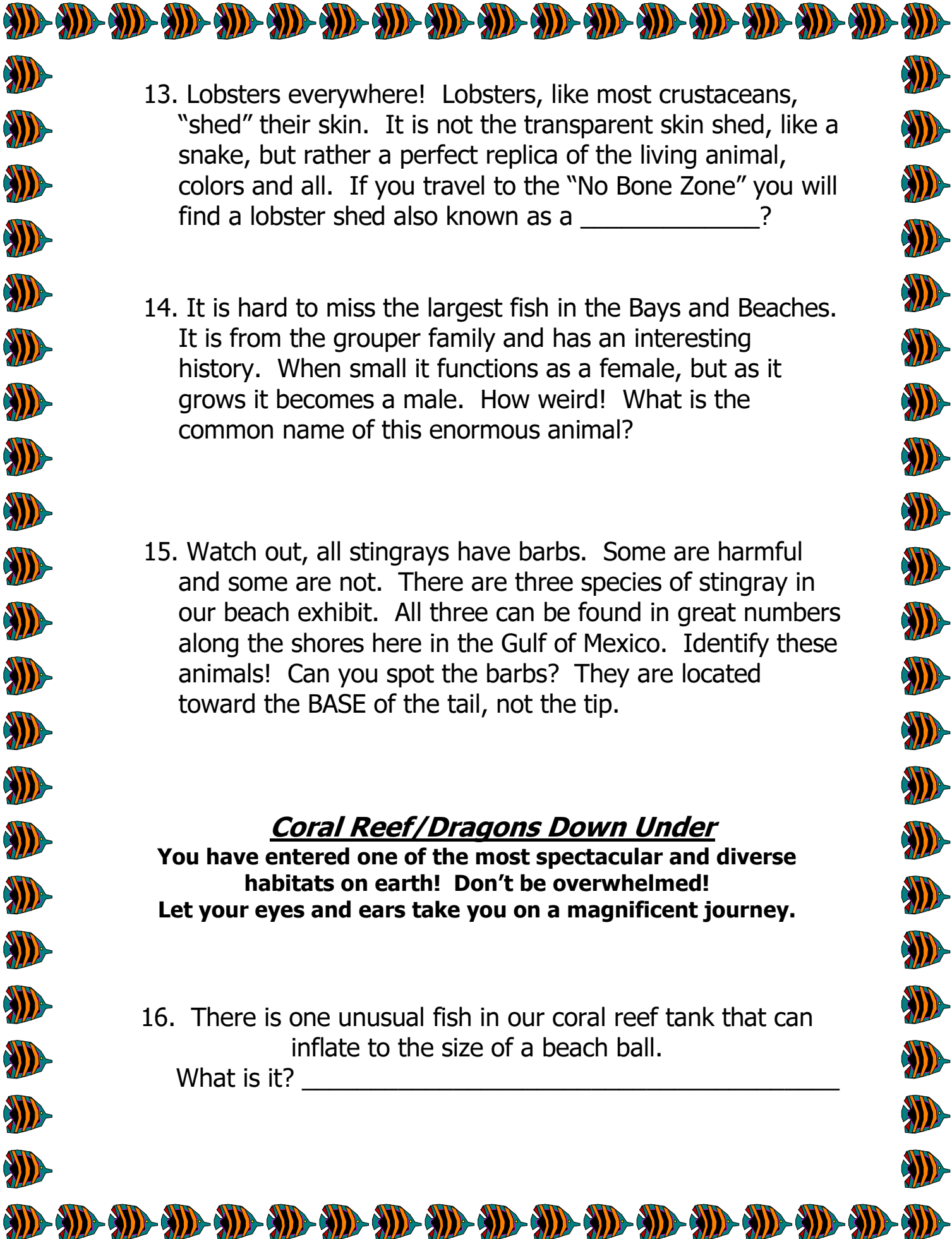
10. In some fish, babies develop inside the female's body. These fish are called _____.

Bays and Beaches

As you weave your way through, make sure not to miss a thing. We have some weird and wonderful creatures, and many are masters of camouflage. Sharp eyes are needed!

11. Tampa Bay is a large and unusual body of water because it is made up of both freshwater and saltwater. Why is this odd mixture of water so important for animals?

12. Sea grasses are the only true flowering marine plant. Why are they so important to the ocean?



13. Lobsters everywhere! Lobsters, like most crustaceans, “shed” their skin. It is not the transparent skin shed, like a snake, but rather a perfect replica of the living animal, colors and all. If you travel to the “No Bone Zone” you will find a lobster shed also known as a _____?

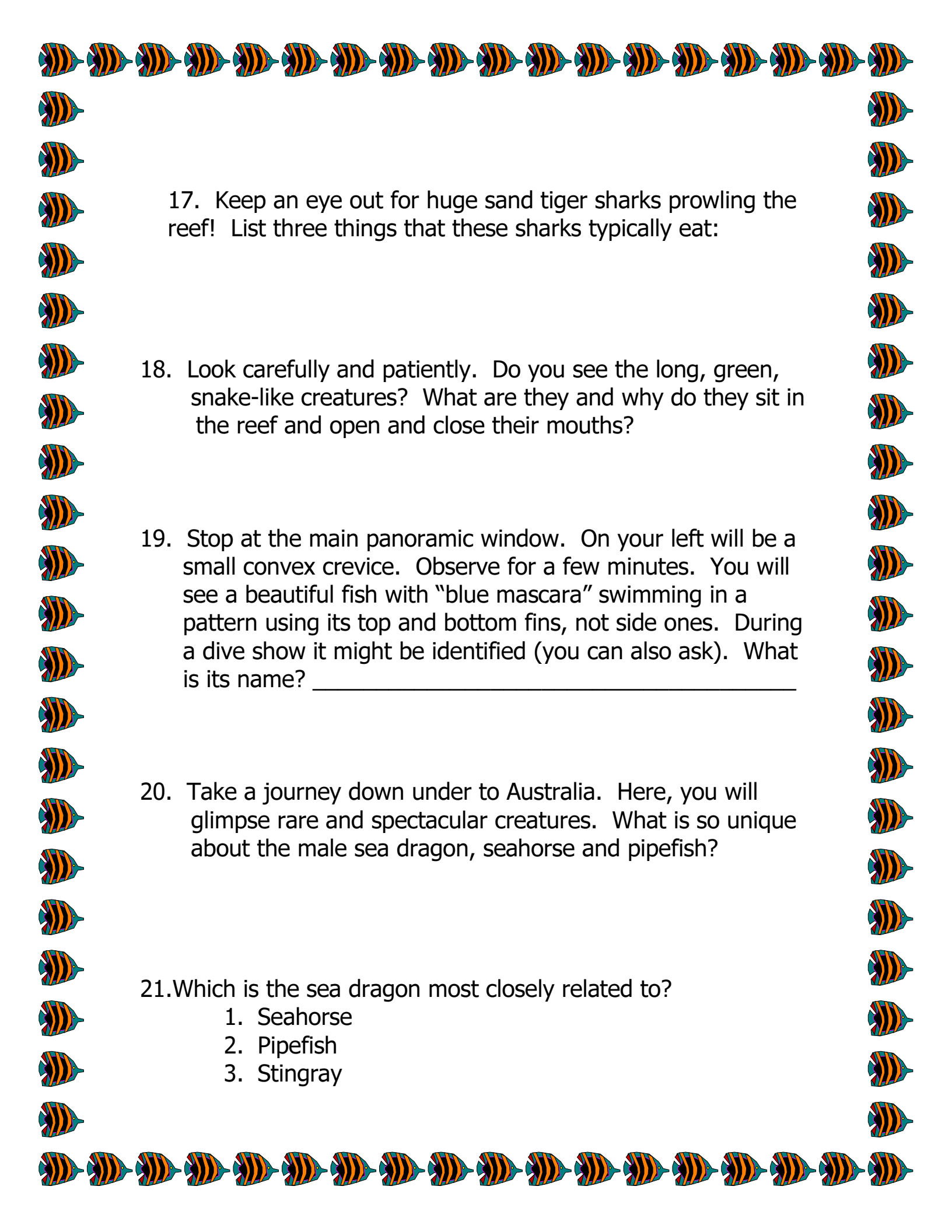
14. It is hard to miss the largest fish in the Bays and Beaches. It is from the grouper family and has an interesting history. When small it functions as a female, but as it grows it becomes a male. How weird! What is the common name of this enormous animal?

15. Watch out, all stingrays have barbs. Some are harmful and some are not. There are three species of stingray in our beach exhibit. All three can be found in great numbers along the shores here in the Gulf of Mexico. Identify these animals! Can you spot the barbs? They are located toward the BASE of the tail, not the tip.

Coral Reef/Dragons Down Under

**You have entered one of the most spectacular and diverse habitats on earth! Don't be overwhelmed!
Let your eyes and ears take you on a magnificent journey.**

16. There is one unusual fish in our coral reef tank that can inflate to the size of a beach ball.
What is it? _____



17. Keep an eye out for huge sand tiger sharks prowling the reef! List three things that these sharks typically eat:

18. Look carefully and patiently. Do you see the long, green, snake-like creatures? What are they and why do they sit in the reef and open and close their mouths?

19. Stop at the main panoramic window. On your left will be a small convex crevice. Observe for a few minutes. You will see a beautiful fish with "blue mascara" swimming in a pattern using its top and bottom fins, not side ones. During a dive show it might be identified (you can also ask). What is its name? _____

20. Take a journey down under to Australia. Here, you will glimpse rare and spectacular creatures. What is so unique about the male sea dragon, seahorse and pipefish?

21. Which is the sea dragon most closely related to?

1. Seahorse
2. Pipefish
3. Stingray



Ocean Commotion

Don't be fooled by beauty and grace. You are about to enter the realm of some of the most cunning predators on the planet!

22. Watch out for all of those sharp teeth, but not to worry, these sharks do not want to eat you! How many different types of sharks can you spot in Shark Bay?

23. Notice the fish schooling in a tight formation. Why do you think the fish exhibit this behavior?

24. When two different organisms work together to benefit themselves it is called a symbiotic relationship. Name a pair of symbiotic organisms and describe how they benefit one another. _____

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