

## **Intertidal Marine Biology Teacher Information**

### **WHAT YOUR CLASS WILL DO AT THE AQUARIUM**

#### **Introduction**

An Aquarium Educator welcomes your students to the Aquarium's Wet Lab—a classroom complete with marine animals and intertidal display habitats. The Intertidal Marine Biology School Program provides a rare opportunity for your class to observe live animals and make hands-on discoveries.

#### **Stations**

Volunteer Educators lead small groups of five to six students through five invertebrate-related stations, explaining how to safely and gently handle the animals. Worksheet handouts are provided to guide your students in their observations and to give them a place to record their discoveries.

**PHYLUM MOLLUSCA:** Students investigate the family characteristics of the molluscs and explore the diversity of species within this phylum.

**PHYLUM ARTHROPODA:** Your class seeks out the common characteristics of live arthropods and hypothesizes about their lifestyles by carefully examining each species' adaptations. Individual students then learn to identify arthropod species using a dichotomous key.

**INTERTIDAL ECOLOGY:** Groups observe live intertidal animals and draw conclusions about the stresses that this habitat places on organisms.

**PHYLUM CNIDARIA:** Students observe live specimens and discover how these invertebrates are adapted to their natural habitats.

**PHYLUM ECHINODERMATA:** Your class examines the intricate characteristics of live echinoderms.

#### **Wrap Up**

An Aquarium Educator presents a predator-prey demonstration to illustrate the escape responses of several species when confronted by one of B.C.'s largest invertebrate predators. This provides students with a challenge to apply what they have learned during their program.

Students also have an opportunity to ask Aquarium Educators questions, and to review and clarify different aspects of the program.

#### **Total Time of Program**

2 hours

#### **Before or After the Program**

You and your class are welcome to visit the Aquarium's galleries at no additional charge.

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**Note: Due to the continuous development of new Aquarium displays, you may not be able to see all the animals mentioned above during your program. We regret any inconvenience and thank you for your understanding.**