

AquaQuest Answers

Grades 6-8

Tropical Cove

1. To climb trees or to crack open hard nut shells, or hang from their beaks playfully.
2. Dermal denticles
3. Epaulette shark, guitarfish, stingray, horseshoe crab

Butterfly Garden

4. Bright colors can warn predators that they may be poisonous or bad tasting, also bright colors can scare predators, like the Blue Morpho. It has a dark color on the underside of the wings for camouflage, but when it spreads its wings, the bright blue color can scare off would-be attackers. Bright colors may also help to attract a mate.
5. Eyespots can confuse the predator as to where the 'head' of the body is, so instead of attacking the head, the butterfly can trick the predator and is able to escape. Eyespots may frighten a small predator if it thinks a large animal has suddenly made its eye visible.

Penguins' Rock

6. b. 17
7. Counter-shading
8. Southern
9. Orcas, sharks, seals, birds, foxes

Boneless Beauties

10. They can weigh up to 40 pounds full grown.
11. This gives the octopus enrichment, or activities to help stimulate its mind. The Giant Pacific Octopus has the intelligence of a three year old child. So instead of handing food to the octopus, they put it in jars and toys to give the octopus something to do so it won't get bored. If an octopus gets bored, it can become destructive to its exhibit or aggressive to its keeper and try to escape. It can also get sick and depressed.

Jellies: Living Art

12. medusa
13. small zooplankton, mollusks, crustaceans, fish eggs & larvae, other jellies, invertebrate eggs & larvae
14. 3. mouth, 2. oral arms, 1. tentacles, 4. stomach
15. d. lion's mane
16. mucous
17. zooxanthellae
live coral

Secret Reef

18. The Secret Reef represents the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary, which is located 110 miles off the coast of Texas in the Gulf of Mexico.
19. Answers may vary--The coral reef is very colorful, so colorful fish blend in or are camouflaged in the colorful reef. Bright colors may help to attract a mate.
20. Sand Tiger always shows its teeth, mouth more in front of head, is more brown in color, has small beady eyes, shorter dorsal fin, swims slower, etc...
Sand Bar do not see teeth, mouth more on bottom, gray in color, big eyes, tall dorsal fin, swims faster, etc...

Seahorse Gallery

21. They live in water, breathe using gills, and move with fins.
22. The male seahorse carries the fertilized eggs and gives birth to the young.

Cove Forest

23. They use their venom primarily to kill their prey so they can eat. Venom can also be used as a last resort to protect the snake from harm, but venomous snakes only rarely bite in defense.
24. Answers will vary.
Brook trout have distinct white strips bordering most of their fins.
Brown trout have large red spots speckled along their bodies, but have no spots on their tails or paired fins.
Rainbow trout have an iridescent red to pink stripe that runs along the side of their bodies.

Discovery Hall

25. Mother alligators build large nests and protect these nests. Once the young gators hatch the mother will carry them to the water in her mouth. She guards the young for three years protecting them from predators and responding to their chirping distress signals.
26. Answers will vary – like leather, rubber. Sturgeons do not have scales like most fish. They have rows of hard plates with skin stretched over them for protection.
27. Answers will vary- habitat loss, climate change, pollution, a parasitic fungus called ‘amphibian chytrid’.

Delta Country

28. The mud floor of the swamp is black. Dead and decaying leaves release tannin that can dye the water.
29. The alligator snapper remains very still on the bottom with its mouth open and lures fish with a wiggling worm-like appendage on the bottom of its mouth. When a hungry fish gets too close, the turtle quickly slams its extremely strong jaws shut to capture its meal.
30. Preening with oil waterproofs their feathers.

River Giants

31. overfishing, dams, pollution, habitat destruction
32. A fish’s mouth is adapted to where it eats in the water column. An upturned mouth takes from the surface, like the arapaima. A bottom feeder’s mouth is located on the ventral (underside) of its body, like the ray, catfish, and sturgeon.

Rivers of the World

33. Piranhas become aggressive when food is scarce and there is increased competition for food and space. This usually occurs during the dry season when the river recedes.
34. Green sea turtle

Turtle Gallery

35. Flat and flexible soft shell. They have thin bones and wide gaps between the carapace bones.

Tennessee River Gallery

36. 19 species.
37. Earthquake.

Lake Nicaragua

38. They have so many fry because predation is so high and most of the fry will be eaten.
39. They guard their fry so that predators will not eat them.

Flooded Amazon Rainforest Exhibit

40. Four: yellow-spotted Amazon River turtle, giant South America river turtle, Geoffrey's side-necked turtle, spotted-bellied side-neck turtle

41. giant South America river turtle; 42 inches