

# PROGRAM NOTES



## YEARS PREP – 2

The following program notes have been designed to assist teachers during self-guided visits, and provide an educational and informative guide about many of the animals at Melbourne Aquarium. The program notes are accompanied by a worksheet that can be completed by students during their two-hour self-guided tour.

Included in the program notes are the answers for the student worksheet, extra information about some of the animals, and an extension question for each section. You may choose to discuss these questions during your visit, or use it as a post visit activity once you returning to school.

**Suggested timing guide for the visit and general focus of student worksheet:**

**Antarctica – 20 mins:** Program focus - observation and classification skills.

**Weird & Wonderful – 20 mins:** Program focus - colour, pattern and camouflage observation and recognition skills.

**River to Reef:** Program focus - size observation, and comparison of different water types.

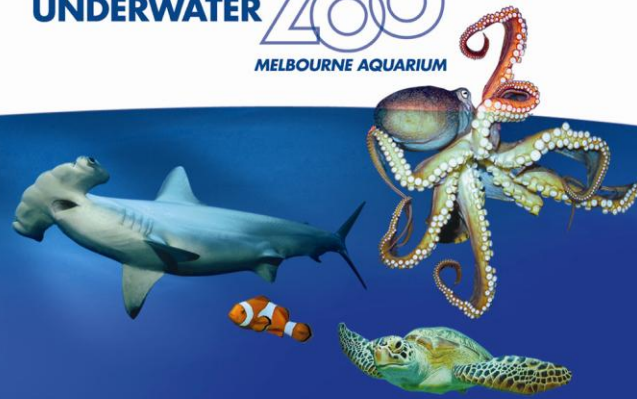
**Cave – 15 mins**

**Billabong and Rock pools – 20 mins**

**Coral Atoll, Jellies and Octopus Cove – 15 mins**

**Sharks Alive – 20 mins:** Program focus - observing differences and similarities using drawing skills.





# PROGRAM NOTES

## VELS LEVEL 1 & 2: AREAS COVERED

STRAND	DOMAIN	DIMENSION
Physical, Personal & Social Learning	Interpersonal Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Building social relationships</li> <li>• Working in teams</li> </ul>
	Civics & Citizenship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community awareness</li> </ul>
Discipline Based Learning	English	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading</li> <li>• Writing</li> <li>• Speaking and listening</li> </ul>
	The Humanities - Geography	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Geographical knowledge and understanding</li> </ul>
	Mathematics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number</li> </ul>
	Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Science knowledge and understanding</li> </ul>
	The Arts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creating and making</li> </ul>
Interdisciplinary Learning	Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Listening, viewing and responding</li> </ul>
	Thinking Processes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reasoning, processing and inquiry</li> <li>• Reflection, evaluation and metacognition</li> </ul>

# ANTARCTICA



## HELP ME IDENTIFY THE PENGUIN!

Using the words in the box below, describe the two types of penguins that live at Melbourne Aquarium.

There are two species of penguins at Melbourne Aquarium:

King Penguin	Gentoo Penguin
Black and white, with <b>yellow</b> detailing on their front and head.	Black and white, with <b>orange</b> feet and beak.
<b>Largest</b> penguin at Melbourne Aquarium (Second largest in the world)	<b>Smallest</b> penguin at Melbourne Aquarium (Third largest in the world)

I am a King Penguin.  
I am black, white and yellow.  
I am the largest sized penguin at the Melbourne Aquarium

I am a Gentoo Penguin.  
I am black, white and have orange feet.  
I am the smallest sized penguin at the Melbourne Aquarium.

**GENTOO LARGEST ORANGE SMALLEST YELLOW KING**

Looking at the penguins playing in the water, who do you think would win a race?

**GENTOO VS KING PENGUIN**

The **Gentoo** Penguin is the fastest swimming penguin in the world, and can swim up to 36km per hour.

**Extension question:** Do penguins have fur or feathers? Why might this be? Feathers, they are a bird.

**Real-life connection:** Think about what happens to a dog/cat, compared to a duck, when they get wet.



# WEIRD & WONDERFUL



## WEIRD & WONDERFUL FIND OUR FISHY FRIENDS – THEY LIKE TO HIDE

I AM A  
CLOWN  
FISH

**What colours am I?**

Black and white; or orange, black and white

**I hide amongst another animal? What is it?**

Sea anemone or soft coral

**What pattern is on my skin?**

Stripes

**How can I protect myself?**

There are various ways, including using venomous spines and sticking out front fins to appear larger in size.

I AM A LION  
FISH

I AM A  
CUTTLEFISH

**What main colour is my body?**

Look at the display the as the cuttlefish change their appearance.

**What else in my home is the same colour as me?**

Red weed = red cuttlefish; white sand = white cuttlefish; yellow stone = yellow cuttlefish

Cuttlefish have the fastest camouflage technique in the world. They change their colour to look like their surroundings, to distract and confuse prey as well as to attract a mate.

**Find two different types of seadragons.**

**Leafy** and **weedy** sea dragons. The Weedy Sea dragon is Victoria's marine state emblem.

**How is the Weedy Sea Dragon different to the Leafy Sea Dragon?**

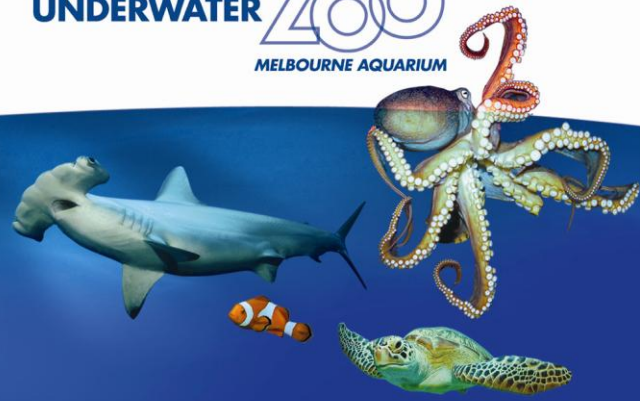
The Weedy Sea Dragon has a larger range of colours and patterns; while the appendages of the Leafy Sea Dragon are more ornate.

I AM A SEA  
DRAGON

**Extension question:** Why do some creatures in this area look like their surroundings?

To hide, camouflage, and protect themselves from predators.

**Real-life connection:** If someone wearing green is lying on the grass, it is harder to see them.



**HIDE AND SEEK. FIND, THEN DRAW OR DESCRIBE...**

**THE BIGGEST FISH**

Murray cod (found in the cave), barramundi, Speartooth shark or the sawfish (found in The Lagoon).

**A BABY ANIMAL**

This may change from time to time, but likely to be a baby freshwater turtle or a baby Cichlid fish.

**AN ANIMAL THAT CAN LIVE IN AND OUT OF WATER**

This list could include: turtle, Green Tree frog, eels, Merton's water monitor, crocodile or mudskipper.

**AN ANIMAL THAT LIVES IN FRESH WATER**

Include those who are in the cave, billabong, and lagoon areas of Melbourne Aquarium such as: Murray cod, carp, turtles, Green Tree frogs, barramundi, and sawfish.

**AN ANIMAL THAT LIVES IN SALT WATER**

Include those who are in the rock-pool and coral reef areas of Melbourne Aquarium such as: sea star; sea urchin; rays; sharks; coral reef fish; sea jellies; and octopus.

**Extension question:** Why do some animals live in saltwater and some live in fresh water?

They have adapted to live in specific habitats, either freshwater or saltwater, therefore the food they eat lives in that type of water.

**Real-life connection:** A Koala would not be able to live in the Amazon rainforest – their food is unavailable and there are other predators.



# SHARKS ALIVE



## DRAW A SHARK

Sharks have **fins** on their backs and their sides, gills on the side of their body, **often their teeth are visible**, and a short tail.

In the Oceanarium at Melbourne Aquarium you can find three large species of sharks: Grey Nurse shark; Scalloped hammerhead shark and Sandbar Whaler shark. Other species of shark that live at Melbourne Aquarium are the Port Jackson shark, Spotted Wobbegong shark, Whiskery shark, Leopard shark, and the Tawny Nurse shark, they are smaller in size and are often found at the bottom of the display. The Fiddler ray is often confused for a shark, but because its gills are located on the underside of its body, it is considered a ray and not a shark.

## DRAW A RAY

Stingrays are **flat** with their **gills and mouth underneath their body**, they have a **long tail** which has a barb at the end that they use when they feel threatened.

In the Oceanarium at Melbourne Aquarium you can find two large species of stingrays: smooth stingray and the southern eagle ray. Other species of stingray that live at Melbourne Aquarium include the Blue-spotted Stingray; the White Spotted Eagle Ray and the Fiddler Ray.

## SHARK OR RAY? (CIRCLE THE ANSWER)

- I am flat.                      My gills are underneath my body.                      I have fins on my back.
- Shark Ray                      Shark Ray                      Shark Ray
- You can see my sharp teeth.                      I have a long, thin tail.
- Shark Ray                      Shark Ray

**Extension question:** Are the sharks and stingrays at Melbourne Aquarium dangerous to humans? None of the sharks or stingrays at Melbourne Aquarium pose an immediate threat to humans. Although the teeth of the Grey Nurse shark look dangerous, they are unable to swallow anything larger than a medium fish. Stingrays only use their defensive barb when they feel threatened – this can occur when someone accidentally stands on them or swims too close above them.

