



***Unless otherwise noted, answer your questions in complete sentences. ***

Mezzanine Level

1. Look at the fish in the tank by the bubble tower. Look at the longnose gar. How does the shape of their body help them survive?

The shape of the longnose gar helps them:

1. _____

2. _____

Before the Basin

2. Go to the Champlain Sea Tide Pool. Is the water salt or fresh? List the animals that have claws and the animals that have tube feet.

Champlain Sea Tide Pool is: saltwater freshwater

Lake Champlain today is: saltwater freshwater

Animals with claws

Animals with tube feet

3. Which animal is the smallest in the Champlain Sea Tide Pool? Which is the largest?

Smallest _____

Largest _____

4. With help from an ECHO volunteer, use the string at the Champlain Sea to measure a sea star.

My sea star was _____ inches across.

Land of Opportunity

5. Can you find an animal whose toes help it to climb trees? Name this animal, and in one full sentence describe what it looks like.

Animal Name: _____

6. Do you see any turtles basking (sunbathing) under the warm sunlamps? In the wild, turtles do this when the sun shines. What is one reason turtles need to bask?

The reason turtles bask is _____.

7. Climb inside the tunnel under the turtle tank and watch the fish and turtles. Name and draw 2 different animals.

Animal Name _____ 	Animal Name _____
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8. Find the stinkpot (musk) turtle. Why do you think it has this name? "Defense" means the way an animal protects itself. Name another animal that uses this kind of defense.

Animal Name _____ (hint: it is a mammal that has black and white fur)

Into the Lake

9. Look at the tanks with baby sturgeon. Do baby sturgeon and adult sturgeon look the same? Draw a sturgeon here. Check the correct answer.

- Baby sturgeon and adult sturgeon look the same, only smaller.
- Baby sturgeon and adult sturgeon look different in many ways, not just their size.

10. Look at the fish in the emerald shiner tank. Fish who swim together are called "schooling fish". Why do you think they move this way? Check the best answer.

- Feeding - more eyes means it is easier for them to find food in a group
- Fun
- Protection- because they look bigger in a group
- It's nice to have friends around



ECHO Ecology Trek
Grades 2-4
ANSWERS

1. The shape of the longnose gar's body helps them to move in short speedy sprints. It also helps them disguise themselves among weeds and grass in the water.

2. The Champlain Sea Tide Pool is saltwater. Today, Lake Champlain is freshwater.

Animals with claws:

hermit crab
horseshoe crab

Animals with tube feet:

sea star
sea urchin

3. The largest animal in the Champlain Sea Tide Pool is the horseshoe crab. The smallest animal in the tide pool is the periwinkle snail.

4. There are different sea stars in the tide pool, and they are all different sizes! Most are approximately 3-5 inches across from the tip of one ray to the tip of another.

5. The tree frog. The tree frog is a brown and gray color. This allows it to camouflage itself on the tree branch. It is also very small and sometimes hard to find.

6. Turtles bask in the sunlight to keep themselves warm. The sun also gives helps them absorb nutrients that help them grow a strong hard shell.

7. Draw any two animals you see. Look at the signs in front of the tank to identify them.

8. The stinkpot turtle gets its name because it gives off a musky fluid which smells bad when it is disturbed or scared. It is also used to scare away predators. Another animal that uses a bad smell as its defense is a skunk.

9. Baby sturgeon and adult sturgeon look the same, only the baby is smaller.

10. "Schooling fish" move this way for protection. They look bigger in a group, and it is harder for predators to select only one to eat.

