



# NATIONAL MARINE AQUARIUM

## Activity Pack

### Rainbows and Beavers



This activity booklet will help beavers to gain their Explorer Badge. It will also provide a great opportunity for Rainbows to Look, Learn, Laugh, Love!



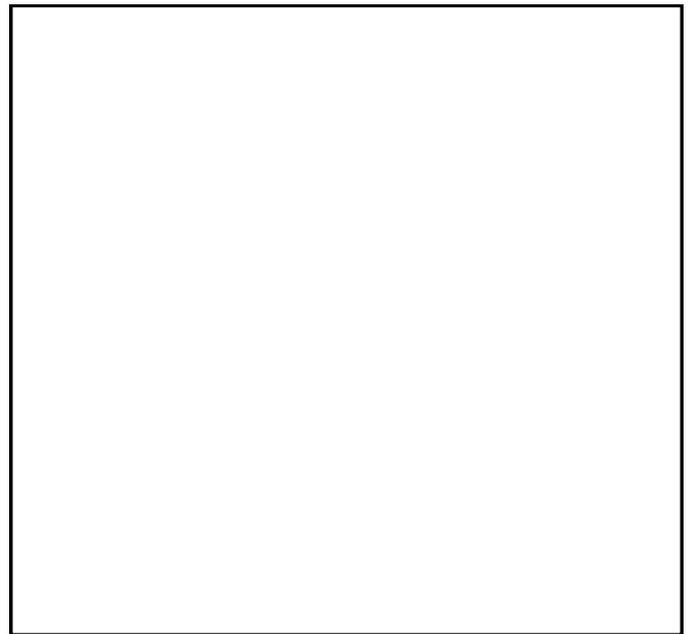
If you need any help around the Aquarium today, please ask a Host for help. We are happy to talk to you about any of the animals, answer any questions or just point you towards the café! The Hosts are wearing polo shirts that look like this.



# Welcome to the National Marine Aquarium!

Use your Activity Pack as you explore the Aquarium today and learn all about our amazing animals! The pack is split into the four zones of the Aquarium: **Plymouth Sound**, **British Coasts**, **Atlantic Ocean** and **Blue Planet**. Fun challenges are in the blue bubbles!

Before you go in, have a think about what sea creatures you will see in the aquarium today. Can you draw three animals you might spot?



Name of animal: \_\_\_\_\_



Name of animal: \_\_\_\_\_



Name of animal: \_\_\_\_\_

# Spot it!

This page has a few sea creatures to spot in [Plymouth Sound](#), [British Coasts](#), [Atlantic Ocean](#) and [Blue Planet](#). So make sure you keep flipping back to tick off the animals as you go! You can fold down the corner so you can return to the page easily —>

You found the Aquarium entrance so we'll tick this one for	✓
Can you find a flatfish hiding in the sand?	
Can you see the eyes of a starfish? Ask a Host if you get stuck!	
Can you spot a baby shark?	
Can you count the seahorses in our 'Super Seagrass' area?	
Can spot an orange fish with white and black spots along its back? This is a female cuckoo wrasse!	
Can you see a lobster hiding in the rocks?	
Can you spot the animals in the round tanks? Tell a friend your favourite one!	
Can you find somewhere where there are fish all around you, even below your feet?	
Can you spot a shark with a black spot on his back? His name is Junior.	
Can you find an animal with eight tentacles? These animals are very clever and like to eat crabs!	
Can you find Nemo and Dory?	
Can you see a spotty shark? These are called Zebra Sharks as they are stripy when they are babies!	

# Plymouth Sound



Start your journey with a rockpool ramble! All these animals are right outside in rockpools and shallow waters along the British coastline.

A habitat is an animal's home!

Always changing

The tide stays the same

Very Safe

Loads of predators

A predator is an animal that hunts and eats other animals

What would it be like to live in a rockpool habitat?  
Circle the 3 correct descriptions!

Always loads of food

Sometimes, no food!



Can you draw a line to match the pictures with the name of the animal?



Plumose  
Anemone

Plaice



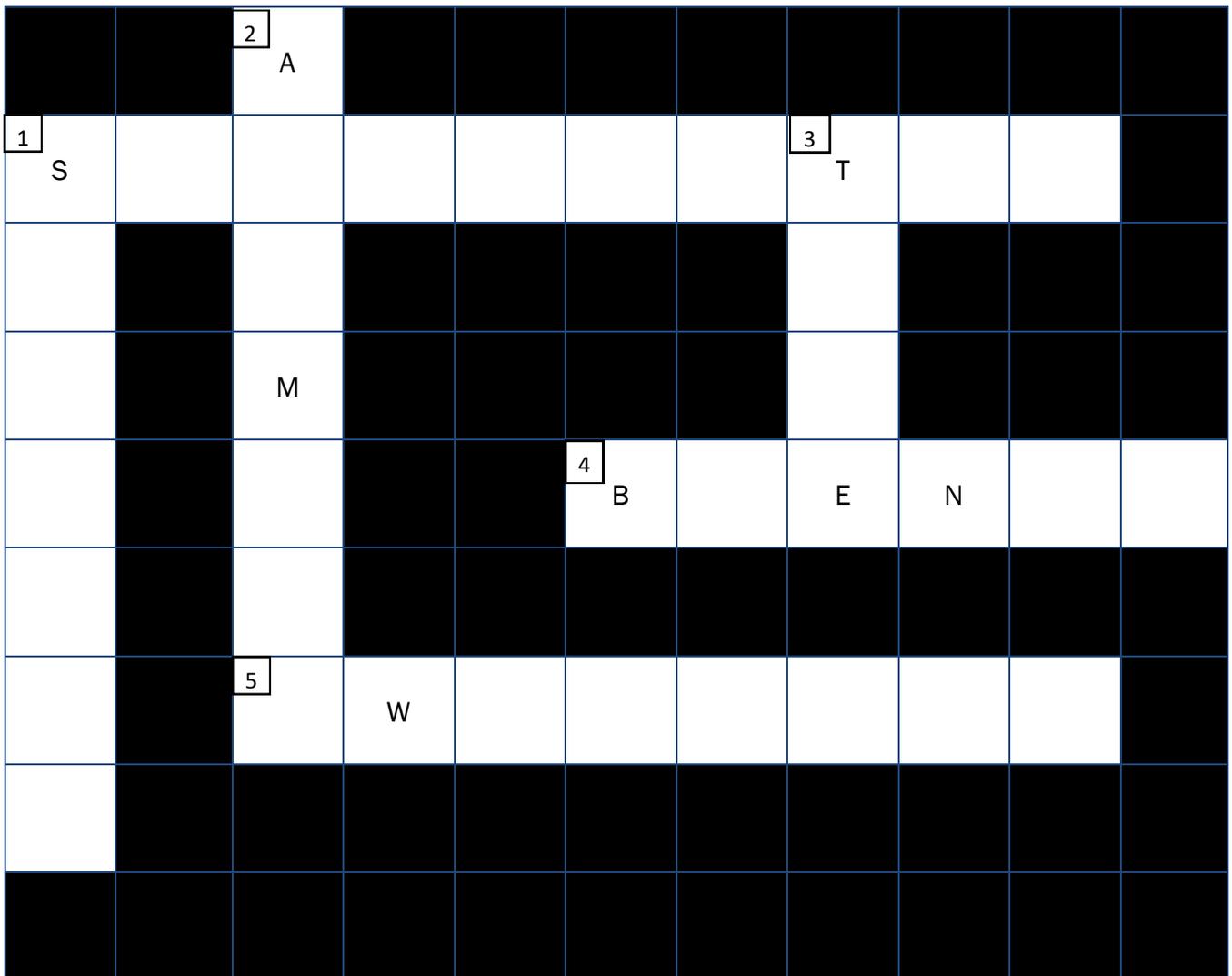
Common  
Blenny





# Plymouth Sound

Enjoy a quick crossword!



## Across

- 1 . You build these on the beach using a bucket and spade.
- 4 . A small fish that you can find in rock pools.
- 5 . You can do this in a pool but it's even better in the sea!

## Down

- 1 . You may need one of these to help you explore in the water... it's shaped like a tube and helps you to breath underwater.
- 2 . You'll find lots of these on a trip to the beach, especially if you look in the rock-pools. Not plants but...
- 3 . You should always check this before rock pooling so you don't get trapped on the beach!



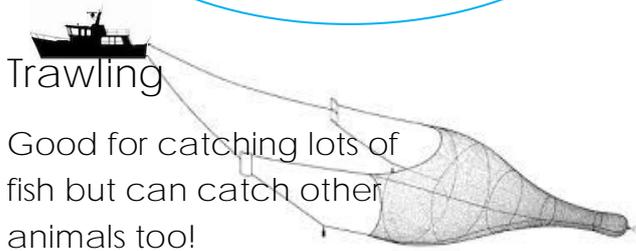
# British Coasts

Staying in our local waters but moving a little deeper, we are now looking at animals that live around Eddystone Reef, which is 12 miles out to sea from Plymouth. Most of the fish you can see here are quite tasty to eat too!

There are a lot of ways of catching the fish we like to eat, but some fishing techniques can be really damaging for our oceans. They take too many fish and destroy the habitats the animals live in! However, **sustainable** fishing is a good solution! This helps us to catch fish to eat but also protects the seas for future generations.

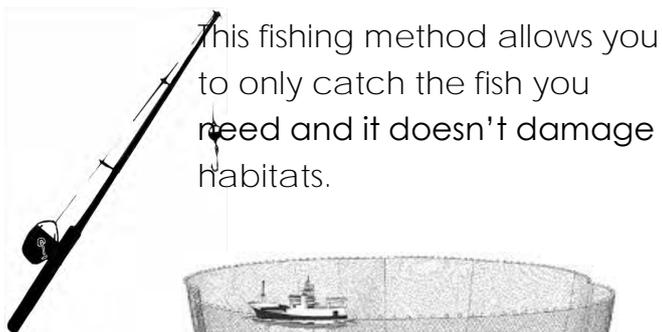
Put a circle around what you think is the most sustainable method of fishing!

Can you write the name of these fish next to the pictures? Use the signs to help you!

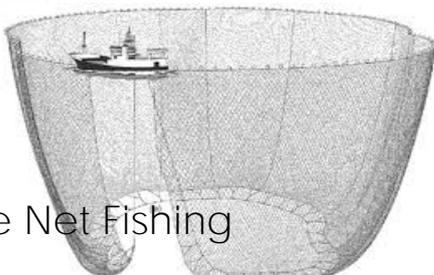


Fact: I am a fish finger fish!

## Pole and Line Fishing



Fact: I can change colour to blend in with the sand!



Fact: I am HUGE! I might even grow to 2m long.



## Purse Seine Net Fishing

This method uses two boats and a large net to encircle a shoal of fish. It closes at the bottom to prevent escape. Entire shoals of fish can be caught this way, but is not the most sustainable way of fishing.

## Longline Fishing

These really long floating lines have hooks hanging from them. They can also catch other animals like dolphins.









# Atlantic Ocean

Our oceans are massive! They cover 72% of our planet and make up 99% of the living space for living things. Despite their size, humans are having an affect on every part of our oceans, even down to the deepest depths!

Unfortunately, lots of our ocean animals are suffering because of man made objects that they find in their habitats. Many of these items are made from plastic!

We call this **plastic pollution**.

Below are a few items of plastic that can be found floating in the ocean.

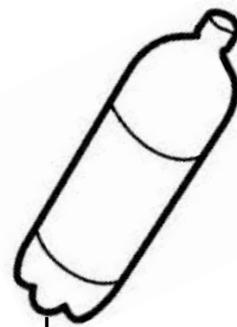
Fill in the missing letters and then draw arrows to how you think they may have ended up in the sea!

Circle two of the objects that you think you could use less of to help ocean animals stay safe!

\_ L \_ \_ \_ I \_ \_ B \_ \_



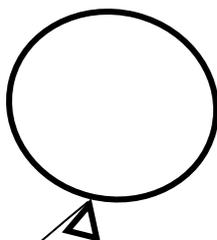
Balloon  
release after  
an event



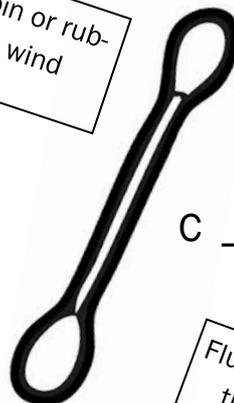
\_ L \_ \_ \_ I \_ \_ \_ \_ T \_ \_ \_

Blown out of a bin or rubbish tip by the wind

Left at the beach after a picnic



\_ A \_ \_ \_ \_ \_



C \_ \_ \_ \_ N

Flushed down the toilet

\_ \_ \_ D



Ask a Host for help!



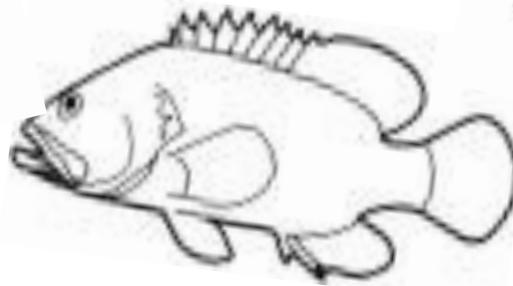
# Blue Planet

Our Blue Planet is amazing! Our beautiful oceans contain so much life, from tiny plankton to huge whales. This life comes in all different shapes, sizes, colours and patterns.

Here are some of the shapes you will be able to find in the Aquarium today. Can you find them all?



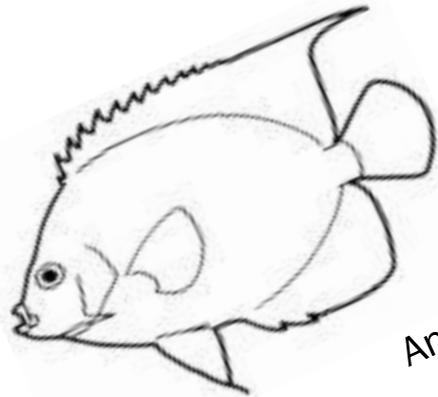
Whip tail ray



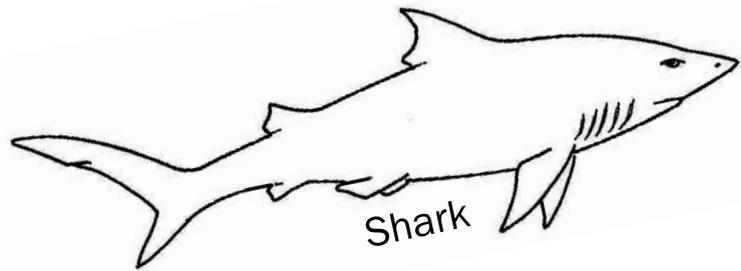
Grouper



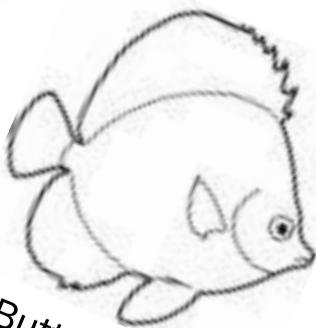
Filefish



Ang



Shark



Butterflyfish

Fish in **coral reefs** tend to be colourful so that they can blend in with their surroundings! Can you colour them in so that they can camouflage with their home?

**Coral reefs** are ridges of coral that grow in warm, shallow water. Coral is found in many different colours!



# Blue Planet

After seeing so many wonderful animals today, we would like to ask you to help protect our oceans! Very small and simple things can make a massive difference! There are a few ideas below. Circle one or two that you think you could do. By trying these we will have fish in our seas for the future!

Write your  
name / names  
here!

## Ocean Pledge!

I will not use plastic bags for one week  
(if that's too easy, why not keep it up  
for longer?).

I will use my good fish  
guide to pick one new fish  
that's sustainable to eat.

I will walk a short  
journey instead of  
driving.

I will turn my lights off  
when I leave the room.

I will pass two of these  
ideas on to someone I  
know so they can help  
save the oceans too!

I will get a new pretty re-usable  
water bottle and use it everyday!



Tell a Host what you decide!



# Life long learning!

When you finish your visit at the Aquarium, why not take this pack with you to Mount Batten? You can have a super fun rockpool ramble!

## Sea Shore Code

Mount Batten is just across the water. You can get there using the yellow water taxi from Commercial Wharf!



Here's a few things you can do when you get to Mount Batten beach:

- \* Chill out!
- \* Build a sandcastle (adults can build one too) 
- \* Dig a big hole! 
- \* Enjoy the beautiful scenery and the ocean air
- \* Paddle in the waters edge (watch out for weever fish!)
- \* Go rock pooling! See who you can find but remember The Sea Shore Code!
- \* Be adventurous and go for a swim or snorkel. 

Weever fish like to hide in the sand. They have a sting but shuffle they'll move out the way!!

### Keep Yourself Safe!

- Check the tides before you go. Try to visit when the tide is on the way out so you don't get cut off.
- Tread carefully! There are slippery rocks about so take care!

### Keep the Animals Safe

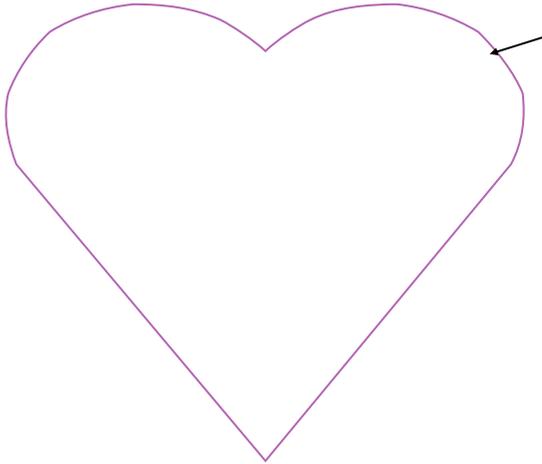
- Use your bucket to catch the animals. Nets can damage their delicate bodies
- Leave the animals where you find them. If you do put them in a bucket make sure you don't keep them there long and put them back where you found them.
- Try to have only one or two animals in a bucket at once. They may not like each other!
- Move rocks carefully! A carelessly dropped rock can squash the animal you were just watching.
- Sometimes just sit back and watch! It's amazing what you can see by just watching.

### Keep it Tidy

- Leave nothing you brought with you behind. Take your rubbish home.



Thank you for visiting The  
National Marine  
Aquarium!



Which animal did you  
love the most? Draw it in  
the heart!

Can you think of a way to  
help it stay happy in the  
sea? Write down one  
idea...


Why not continue the fun? Here are a list of activities you can do once you have finished at the aquarium:

- Tell your friends and family what you have learned today!
- Create a fact file or design a poster.
- Go rockpooling! See the next page for a fun and helpful guide...



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Keep in touch and we hope  
to see you again soon!

A colorful, stylized logo for "JUST A H2O" with the letters in various colors (pink, yellow, blue, green) and a water drop icon.