





Target audience Primary school students

Duration 90 minutes

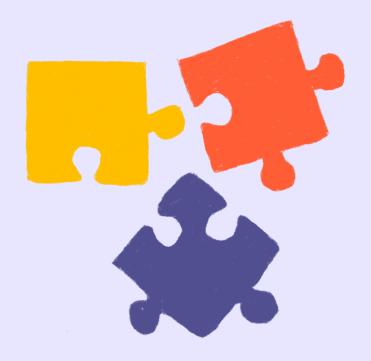
Objectives

The objective of the activity is to introduce students to the knowledge of the main systematic groups found in the marine ecosystem, discovering their systematic characteristics through play, leading to an understanding of how structures, shapes, sizes, colors and functions are closely related to the living environment.

Materials

- Small panels depicting marine organisms, cut into tiles corresponding to the various parts that make up their structure (head, body, tail and appendages)
- Magnetic board depicting the main marine habitats
- Magnets depicting marine organisms

Description



In the first part of the activity, students have to piece together puzzles of a range of marine organisms, including cetaceans, fish, mollusks, crustaceans, birds,

echinoderms, sponges and jellyfish, through the association of pieces representing the heads, bodies, tails and appendages of the different animals.

In the second part, using magnetic cards and a board, students have to trace each organism back to "its home," i.e., the specific habitat in which it lives: the intertidal environment, the submerged reef, the sandy and muddy bottoms, and the pelagic domain.

While carrying out the activity, students are stimulated by MPA staff to reason about the close relationship between the specific shapes, colors and functions of certain body parts that organisms have developed in the evolutionary process to adapt to their living environment, and understand that each species is part of a large and complex "puzzle"- the ecosystem - that includes species, habitats and the relationships between them.

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