



Animal Husbandry

4-8 Classroom Activities

A Home Away from Home

OBJECTIVE

Given information about the natural history of a species of marine animal, the student will design a zoological environment.

ACTION

1. Students may work alone or in cooperative learning groups. Have students choose a favorite marine animal or choose one from the following list:

killer whale <i>Orcinus orca</i>	California sea lion <i>Zalophus californianus</i>
bottlenose dolphin <i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	harbor seal <i>Phoca vitulina</i>
emperor penguin <i>Aptenodytes forsteri</i>	sea otter <i>Enhydra lutris</i>
West Indian manatee <i>Trichechus manatus</i>	sandtiger shark <i>Carcharias taurus</i>
Pacific walrus <i>Odobenus rosmarus divergens</i>	

Allow students time to research animal's habitat and natural behavior either at the library or on the World Wide Web.

2. Then, students design an exhibit that is as close to their animal's natural habitat as possible. Remind students to consider husbandry parameters, including...
 - substrate (ground surface)
 - air
 - water
 - temperature
 - food
 - habitat cleaning
 - caring for the animals
 - breeding
 - research
 - training
3. Finally, students diagram their plan and describe it in an essay.

DEEPER DEPTHS

Visit a zoological park or aquarium and compare the animal habitats there to the students' designs.

MATERIALS

For each student group:

- graph paper
- pencils or pens
- color markers
- library or internet access



This emperor penguin chick was hand-reared by SeaWorld aviculturists, who simulated a parent penguin's feeding behavior.