



# OUTDOOR WILDLIFE AWARD



## PROJECT: FISH

### GOALS

**A. FISH FACTS:** Identify four different **fish** and four characteristics of all **fish**.

**B. FISH CHALLENGE:** Complete one of the four.

### A. FISH FACTS

**Fish Examples** (Identify four.)

- trout, salmon, minnow, angelfish, reef shark, stingray, eels

**Fish Characteristics** (Identify four.)

- have a backbone (vertebrates)
- are cold-blooded
- move in water with fins
- breathe through gills

**FUN FACT:** A person who studies fish is called an ichthyologist. This is pronounced ICK-THEE-OL-O-GIST!

### B. FISH CHALLENGE

Complete one of the following options below to learn about fish.

#### Option 1—Fish Presentation

Go to a local fish store and identify three types of fish and answer the following questions. Present your findings to a family member.

#### **Fish Checklist**

- home and habitat
- diet
- fishbowl or aquarium needs
- defense mechanisms
- life expectancy
- other fun facts

**FUN FACT:** Betta fish, called Siamese Fighting Fish, are best kept solo as they will eat smaller fish.

#### Option 2—Hatchery Visit

Tour a local fish hatchery or fish farm. Observe and feed the fish if possible.

#### **Hatchery Checklist**

- what types of fish live at the hatchery
- the purpose of the hatchery
- the eating habits of the fish
- life span and habitat needs

**FUN FACT:** Fish hatcheries are part of a practice called "Fish Farming" or "Aquaculture". The fish are grown in cages in a pond or lake, placed in a man made pond, or the young fish are released into the wild to populate existing waterways.

### Option 3—Care for Fish

Purchase a fish from the pet store along with a fish bowl or aquarium. Take care of your new pet!

**FUN FACT: GOLDFISH** make great starter fish because they are one of the easiest fish to care for.

#### **Aquarium Checklist**

- supplies the fish needs in the aquarium to live
- the fish's social needs (they may need to be solo, or a group)
- saltwater or freshwater habitat
- water temperature range

#### **Starter Fish to Consider**

- *Freshwater:* angelfish, betta fish, goldfish, guppies, neon tetra's, platys (or moonfish)
- *Saltwater:* blue-green chromis, Brazilian sea horses, clownfish, mollies

### Option 4—Fish Research

Research and discover 10-20 of the most unusual fish in the world. They can be bizarre deep-sea creatures, fish with unusual defense mechanisms or camouflage, or fish with unusual or extraordinary habits.

#### **BIZARRE FISH FACTS**

- o One of the ugliest and most unusual fish is the "Blobfish" which truly looks like a blob.
- o One of the unique deep-sea dwellers, the "Dragon Fish," has light-producing spots below its eye and a small lighted lure that hangs below its teeth.
- o A type of frogfish, the Psychedelica, has wild swirls for coloring, and bounces off the floor of the ocean like a rubber ball.

#### **RESEARCH MORE**

- [ocean.nationalgeographic.com](http://ocean.nationalgeographic.com)
- [tfhmagazine.com](http://tfhmagazine.com) (Tropical Fish Hobbyist Magazine)
- *American Humane Pet Care Library: Fish* by Laura s. Jeffrey
- *Top 10 Fish for Kids* by Dana Meachan Rau
- Visit your local library and look for books on local fish

*My child has successfully completed the Project Goals for the topic—Fish.*

Adult Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*(Complete SIX projects to earn your WILDLIFE award)*