

**THINKING ABOUT ANIMAL ADAPTATIONS**  
**Woods Hole Science Aquarium Activity Sheet**

*Observe the animals at the aquarium and answer the questions.*

- 1) Fish that have a **flattened body shape** will live on the bottom of the ocean. Can you name two of the flat fish species you see here at the aquarium?

\_\_\_\_\_

Explain why a flattened body shape will help these animals to survive in the wild.

\_\_\_\_\_

- 2) Marine animals that have **spines** on their bodies use them for:

a) protection                      b) eating                      c) swimming

Can you find two spiny animal species here at the aquarium?

\_\_\_\_\_

- 3) Some fish can swallow air and/or water to **enlarge the size of their bodies**. Northern puffers have this ability. Why do you think they do this?

\_\_\_\_\_

How many Northern puffers can you find in the aquarium? \_\_\_\_\_

- 4) The **color pattern** of certain fish helps them to survive in the wild. Some fish can even enhance their colors to blend in with their surroundings. In the “big tank”, which fish is best camouflaged?

\_\_\_\_\_

List your favorite “big tank” fish here: \_\_\_\_\_

- 5) **Schooling fish** swim together. Can you name two of our schooling fish species?

\_\_\_\_\_

Think about the schooling behavior of fish. Explain why it is often beneficial for fish to school together:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6) What would you say is the best description of a harbor seal's **body shape**?

- a) long and lean                      b) strong and muscular                      c) round and floppy

7) The diamondback terrapin in our "behind the scenes" gallery has multiple adaptations that will help him survive. Can you explain why the body parts listed below help terrapins to survive?

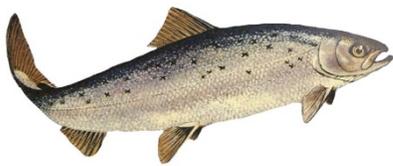
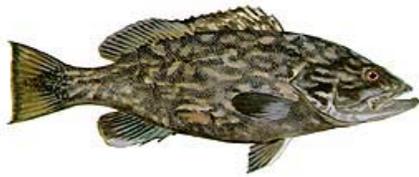
a) webbed feet: \_\_\_\_\_

b) beaked mouth: \_\_\_\_\_

c) hard shell: \_\_\_\_\_

8) In our kitchen we prepare different sized food for all of the aquariums animals. Some animals have very small mouths, others have very large mouths. Some of our animals are even blind so we feed them with a target pole! Look at the mouths and eyes of our aquarium animals. Can you draw a line to match the animal with the food it would likely eat?

**Animal**



**Food**



*A piece of fish fed from a target pole*



*Tiny mysis shrimp*



*Small fish*