AQUARIUM OF THE PACIFIC
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Family Field Trip: Colors, Patterns, and Shapes

Welcome to the Aquarium of the Pacific! We encourage you to make observations and ask questions as you use this guide to explore the Aquarium with your family.

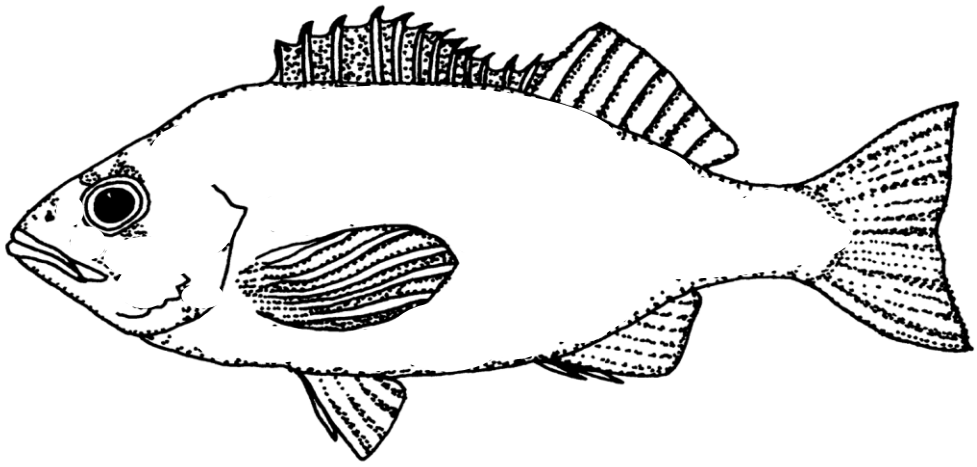
A world full of color:

Ocean animals come in all sorts of shapes, sizes, and colors. Begin your exploration by looking for animal colors that stand out, blend in, or surprise you! This scavenger hunt can be used in any gallery or using the Aquarium's on-line webcams.

Find an animal that has…

Gray	**Yellow**	**Your favorite color!**
Dark and light	**Red**	**Blue**

Great job! **Design this fish with some of the colors and patterns you see:**



Did you know?

Some animals change color throughout the day! Octopus can change quickly, while many bright tropical fish become dull at night as they sleep.

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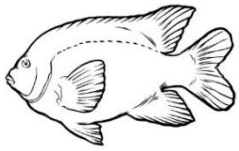
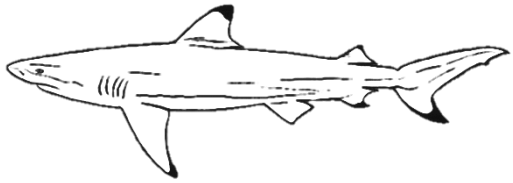
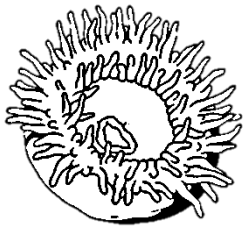
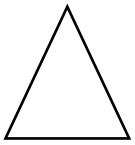
I'm all out of shape!

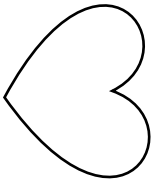
Hard to believe it, but animals are made of all different shapes! Fish can have heart shaped tails and sharks have pointy triangle fins. Match the animal with the shape below!

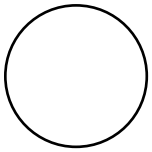


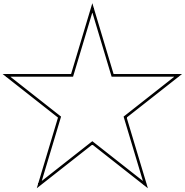












What shape do you see?

As you explore, can you spot any other shapes? Draw those shapes below!

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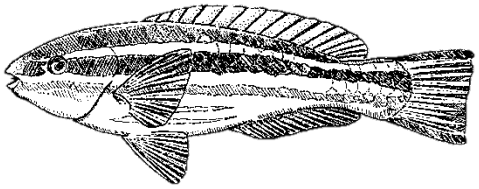
Dots and spots and stripes, oh my!

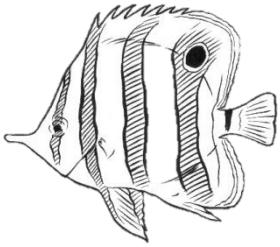
Patterns are found on animals throughout the ocean. For this fishy scavenger hunt, see if you can find an example of each of the patterns below.

Spots

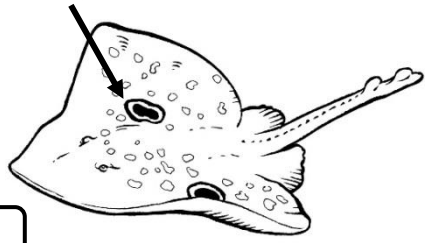
Stripes



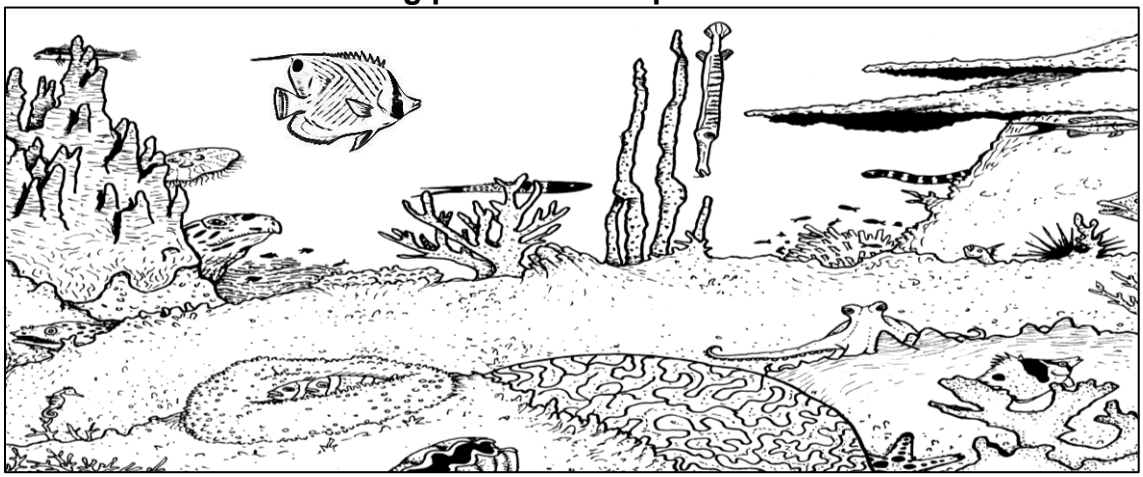
Stripes



Circles



Circle the animals using patterns to help them hide in the coral reef!



Colors and patterns can be found in many different kinds of animals, why do you think that is? Continue exploring and sharing your observations with family and friends.

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Family Field Trip: Adult Partner Page

Help your young explorer learn more as you discover all the Aquarium has to offer. Below you will find guiding questions, answers, and tools to help reach the full potential of every activity. These activities can be done while at the Aquarium, or by using the Aquarium's on-line live exhibit webcams.

A world full of color

In this activity, your explorer will observe different animal colors.

✎ Key Words:

- **Camouflage:** colors or patterns that help an animal blend in to their surroundings.
- **Countershading:** a special kind of camouflage where the top of an animal is dark and the bottom is light, allowing an animal to blending in with the dark habitat below, and the light from above.

? Guiding Questions:

- *What colors do you see? What colors do you see in the habitat?*
- *What was your favorite discovery?*
- *What are you curious about?*

☼ Fun Facts:

- Fish use colors in many different ways: to hide from predators, sneak up on pray, to stand out and attract mates, or even as a warning.

I'm all out of shape/What shape do you see?

Shapes can be hard to identify if we aren't used to looking for them. Help your young explorer get started by looking for basic shapes around them.

? Guiding Questions:

- *What shape are the fish you are exploring, are their fins the same?*
- *Are there shapes on you and me?*

☼ Fun Facts:

- The shape of an animal can tell us a lot about its lifestyle. Fish that have more forked or triangular tails tend to swim faster; fish that have oval shaped bodies tend to move through the water smoothly; and flat fish often live on the bottom.

Dots and spots and stripes, oh my!

The pattern examples on this page are only a handful of the many found on ocean animals. Encourage your explorers to look around and share other patterns they may find.

✎ Keywords:

- **False eye:** some animals, like butterflyfish, have a large dark spot that looks like an eye. This helps confuse predators into thinking the butterflyfish is bigger than it truly is, or confuse them to attack the back of the fish, allowing it to swim away.

? Guiding Questions:

- *What's the same about these two animals with dots?*
- *If you could camouflage yourself, what patterns would you use?*

☼ Fun Facts:

- Patterns can help an animal hide in its habitat, just like colors. Breaking up a solid color with unique patterns makes it harder for predators to see it.