

# Piranha Pencil Puppets

Piranhas are freshwater fish found in South America. The name piranha derives from an Indian word meaning "tooth fish." Ranging in size from 4 inches to almost 2 feet, piranhas feed mostly on fruit but occasionally on small fish, lizards, frogs and snakes. They have an undeserved reputation of being man eaters, but no stories about fatal attacks on humans has ever been substantiated. Many bites occur on land when fishermen attempt to remove the fish from hook and line. South American natives bathe and swim daily without incident in waters where piranhas are found.

## Materials:

Pencils	glue
Red and gray construction paper	scissors
1/2 inch plastic "google" eyes	pinking shears
paper fasteners	staplers
single hole punch	

## Procedure:

- Make several stencils of piranha body and jaw from sturdy paper or a manila folders. These will be used for tracing body parts for the puppet. (see illustration #5).
- For each puppet, cut one piranha body out of gray paper and one bottom jaw out of red construction paper. Please note that these are both cut on a fold. Transfer the dots from the stencil to the body parts. (The dots represent where you will punch holes for the paper fasteners.)

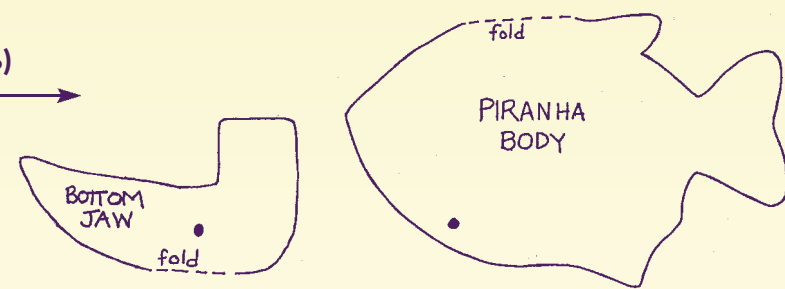
- Use pinking shears on body and jaw to make teeth (illustration #1).

- Staple bottom jaw to pencil, approximately one inch below the top of the eraser (illustration #2).

- Place piranha body over the top of the pencil so that the black dots on the body line up with the black dots on the jaw. Push a paper fastener through the hole-punches and spread prongs out (illustration #3).

- Glue eyes on sides of piranha head. You now have your very own piranha pencil puppet! (illustration #4).

**Piranha body stencils**  
(photocopy stencils at 200%)  
(illustration #5).



## Further Suggestions:

- Study piranhas in class and/or visit Shedd Aquarium to see red-bellied piranhas. Students can add more details to their puppets, such as scales, nares and a lateral line.
- Be creative and make other types of fish puppets.

## Shedd's Taking It to the Streets

Imagine a little piece of Shedd Aquarium across the city. Through the innovative Park Partnership program, this is becoming a reality! This program, funded by the Joyce Foundation, has partnered Shedd Aquarium with Humboldt Park and Margate Fieldhouse in the city of Chicago. The Aquarium is working with the local communities and the environmental youth group, Junior Earth Team (J.E.T.s), to create projects and activities that promote aquatic environments and their conservation. Both parks will create resource rooms complete with computer and internet access, books and periodicals, CD-ROMS and other interactives, as well as lab equipment to do experiments. If you are a teacher in the Humboldt Park-Westtown and Uptown-Edgewater communities, keep your eyes open for updates and contact **Evan Plummer, Community Programs Coordinator, at 312-692-3170**, to get placed on a special mailing list. We have all sorts of fun and educational resources available, in addition to special teacher workshops in the summer and fall of 2000!



Educators receive a 20% discount  
in Go Overboard! and Big Blue



## Teachers admitted to Shedd Aquarium free every day!

Simply show a teacher photo I.D. card or bring a paycheck stub and your state I.D. or driver's license.



**Education Department**  
1200 S. Lake Shore Drive  
Chicago, Illinois 60605

### Education Staff

Meredith Bruozas, Instructor  
David Cooper, Instructor  
Christian Greer, School Programs Coordinator  
Rachel Gross, Adult Programs Coordinator  
Jennifer Holik, Administrative Assistant  
Michelle Johnson, Museum's in the Classroom Coordinator  
Cheryl Mell, Director of Education  
Lisa O'Leary, Public Programs Facilitator  
Adrian Perez, Instructor  
Nicole Pierson, Instructor  
Evan Plummer, Community Education Coordinator  
Simone Scher, Instructor  
Linda Schubert, Assistant Director of Education  
Radhika Shah, Instructor  
Ginger Sides, Instructor  
Betty Kay Swanson, Youth and Family Programs Coordinator  
Josephine Tucci, Teacher Services Coordinator  
Bert Vescolani, Vice President of Education and Programs  
Michelle Wildes, Mentor Programs Coordinator

For further information regarding *Fish Tails* or other teacher programs and services, please contact:  
Teacher Services • John G. Shedd Aquarium • 1200 S. Lake Shore Drive • Chicago, Illinois 60605 • 312-692-3165

♻️ Printed on Recycled Paper

The Shedd Aquarium's newsletter *Fish Tails* is published by the Education Department as a service for teachers. Delivered in cooperation with the Chicago Public Schools' Office of Science Support and the Teachers' Academy

# FISH TAILS

A Newsletter for Teachers from the John G. Shedd Aquarium

Winter/Spring 2000 No. 15

## Teacher Trip to the Amazon in July 2000

Join Shedd Aquarium staff members Bert Vescolani, Vice President of Education and Programs, and Linda Schubert, Assistant Director of Education, for an educators-only nine-day excursion to this magnificent utopia of plants and animals.

The journey begins with stops in **Lima** and **Iquitos (Peru)** before embarking on a 50-mile boat journey down the Amazon. The next few days are spent exploring the botanical richness of the rainforest, a visit to **Yanamono Island** to study **river dolphins** and fishes, and a hike to a **blackwater lake** for a close-up view of giant water lilies.

From here, we visit **Orejone Village** to learn about medicinal plants and take a hike to the **Amazon Center for Environmental Education and Research (ACEER)**. One of the highlights of this trip is a walk along a multileveled **canopy walkway** that gives a spectacular aerial view of the rainforest.

The trip includes several boat tours and visits to a few villages to learn more about the cultures of the **Ribereños**, river people who live along the river and the indigenous inhabitants of the rainforest. We end our stay in Iquitos in time for some shopping before returning home.

The adventure begins Saturday, July 22, 2000 and comes to an end on Sunday, July 30. This trip is planned in collaboration with International Expeditions, a world travel company specializing in trips to the Amazon.

If you would like to receive more information on this study tour, **please call Teacher Services at 312-692-3165**. We will be happy to send you a detailed copy of the itinerary with registration information as well as a full-color photo brochure from International Expeditions. Maximum capacity for this trip is 20 teachers.

Cost: \$2,398 Round trip from Chicago.



Visit Shedd's Website  
at [www.sheddnet.org](http://www.sheddnet.org)



Fish Tails is generously  
underwritten by  
**Ameritech**

**Monday is free day** for visits to the Aquarium only or visit both the Aquarium and Oceanarium at the discounted rate of \$6.00. For teachers who already receive free admission with a teacher photo I.D., it's an opportunity to share an Aquarium visit with friends or family at no additional cost.

# Marine Biology for Teachers in the Bimini Islands, Bahamas

August 1-8, 2000 **OR** August 8-15, 2000

Join Shedd Aquarium's crew for a week-long educational adventure in the Bimini Islands! This intensive 3-hour graduate course takes place aboard Shedd Aquarium's 85-foot research vessel, R/V *Coral Reef II* and will focus on the organisms and environments of the islands and waters of Bimini. The boat will serve as our home and floating laboratory. Teachers will participate in snorkeling and terrestrial excursions as well as scientific activities on the boat. This course is designed for teachers who are seeking to expand and enrich their knowledge of the tropical marine environment.



Enrollment is open to any teacher grades K-12 pursuing graduate credit and is not limited to science teachers. Graduate credit is available through Silver Lake College, Manitowoc, Wisconsin. The cost of the trip will be approximately \$1800. This price does **not** include tuition, airfare or personal items.

For more information or to register for this program, please call **Rachel Gross, Adult Programs Coordinator, at 312-692-3324.**

## Students... Take the Plunge!



Thirty students will make academic waves this summer in Shedd's *High School Marine Biology* program. Here's a chance for your students to splash into the field of marine science. Based on the philosophy that the natural world is the best classroom, this program gives students a chance to learn marine science firsthand in the sun-drenched waters of the Bahamas.

Starting at the Aquarium's Aquatic Science Center, students learn the fundamentals of marine biology through hands-on experiments,

activities, classroom discussions and lectures. The student's skills are put into action as they travel to the Bahamas, aboard Shedd's 85-foot research vessel, the R/V *Coral Reef II*, to conduct field studies, snorkel, and learn about conservation and culture. Using the boat as a base camp and floating laboratory, students will search for "Atlantis", go on night snorkels and explore shipwrecks colonized by reef creatures. Each student is also responsible for a research project, which will be compiled and presented at a final presentation at the Aquarium at the end of the program.

Don't let your high school students miss this once in a lifetime opportunity!

**For information and an application packet call 312-692-3160**

Applications for this program must be completed and postmarked by **April 1, 2000.**

## Teacher Workshops

### Learn A Lotta 'Bout Cephalopoda!

Take a close look at members of the Cephalopoda class including **octopus, squid, nautilus** and **cuttlefish**. Discover why these animals are considered swimming mollusks, how they use jet propulsion to travel through water, and what unique defense mechanisms these fascinating animals have. Hands-on activities and a squid dissection are included in this workshop.

Fee: \$20  
**Saturday, January 29, 2000  
9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**

### Fishes 101

Did you know there are over 25,000 species of fishes in the world that include everything from sharks to seahorses? What do all of these animals have in common that makes them fishes? This workshop will include hands-on activities (including a fish dissection) that will help you explore this incredibly diverse group of animals and their unique adaptations.

Fee: \$35  
**Saturday, February 26, 2000  
9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.**

### An Aquarium in your Classroom

This popular course will introduce you to basic aquarium maintenance through discussion and demonstration. Find out how to integrate aquatic animal behavior and adaptations into your curriculum using non-invasive experiments and observation skills.

Fee: \$35  
**Saturday, March 18, 2000  
9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.**

### Credit Course:

#### A River Runs Through Us: The History and Ecology of the Chicago River

Join Shedd Aquarium and the Chicago Historical Society to examine the nearly 200-year history of the Chicago River and how the city of Chicago developed alongside. With the city's growth and development came ecological and environmental challenges to the river. Conduct a study of river ecology and aquatic biology through experiments, classroom activities and a field study of the Chicago River.

Fee: \$75  
**Session 1: Saturday, April 29, 2000 - Chicago Historical Society  
9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.**

**Session 2: Saturday, May 6, 2000 - Boat Tour and Field Trip to Labagh Woods  
9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.**

**Session 3: Saturday, April 13, 2000 - Shedd Aquarium  
9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.**

#### To register for this course and receive Lane Credit:

Call Pat Edwards, 773-553-6080 or Dee Sampson, 773-553-6076 at the CPS Teachers Academy. Lane Credit fee: \$20

#### To register for this course and receive Aurora University graduate credit:

Call Teacher Services at 312-692-3165 Aurora graduate credit fee: \$50

**Refund and Cancellation Policies:** *Shedd Aquarium does not give refunds for teacher workshops or special teacher programs unless Shedd Aquarium cancels the program. A program or class with insufficient enrollment three days prior to the starting date will be canceled and your money refunded within 30 working days. Participants will be notified by phone.*

## Teacher Programs Registration Form

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Home Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Home Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**School Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**School Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**School Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**What grade do you teach?** \_\_\_\_\_

**What subject area do you teach?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of workshop(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Enclosed:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail completed registration form with a check made out to *John G. Shedd Aquarium*.  
Mail to: Teacher Services  
John G. Shedd Aquarium  
1200 S. Lake Shore Drive  
Chicago, IL 60605

## Teacher Resources

Borrow one of our Discovery Boxes for **FREE**

### How to borrow a Discovery Box

- Call 312-692-3159 to place your order.
- After making arrangements to borrow one of our Discovery Boxes, drive right up to our loading dock and pick up your box from the security station inside.
- Sign both copies of loan agreement form. Leave one copy with security guard and take the other copy for your own records.
- Leave a \$40 refundable security deposit (for each box you borrow) with the security guard. Make check payable to *John G. Shedd Aquarium*.

### How to return a Discovery Box

- We ask that anyone who borrows one of our boxes take a few minutes and complete the evaluation form inside. Your feedback is extremely important to us.
- Return your box and evaluation to the loading dock security station.
- Once we have verified all materials have been returned, your deposit will be mailed back to you.

### Fishes

Grades K-8

### Frogs

Grades K-2

### Penguins

Grades K-3

### Sharks

Grades 3-5

### Whales

Grades 3-5

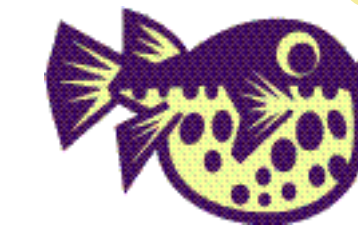
### Oceans

Grades 3-5

### Oceans

Grades 6-8

**New!  
Coral Reefs  
Grades 3-5**



### Activity Guides

Don't forget about Shedd's wonderful series of activity guides designed to augment your curricula. Geared to specific grade levels, the publications merge the Aquarium's expertise in engaging young minds on the topic of aquatic science with the Illinois State Goals in Science and the National Education Science Standards. Prices range from \$6.00 to \$12.00. These guides can be purchased in Go Overboard!, our retail store, or by calling **1-888-Sea-Stuf**.

### Fishes

Grades K-8

### Frogs

Grades K-2

### Penguins

Grades K-3

### Sharks

Grades 3-5

### Whales

Grades 3-5

### Oceans

Grades 3-5

### Oceans

Grades 6-8

### New! Coral Reefs Grades 3-5

Is it a rock? Is it a plant? Learn exactly what a coral polyp is and how this tiny organism builds the foundation of a coral reef. This interdisciplinary guide explores the myriad of animals inhabiting our oceans' "under-water cities." Whether you are looking for a few activities on coral reefs to enhance your lessons or a more in-depth course of study, this activity book will provide an invaluable resource. A full-size color poster is included.

