



Mezzanine Level

1. Look at the fish in the tank by the bubble tower. Find the longnose gar. How does the shape of their body help them catch their food?

2. Find the tank that holds a fish shaped like a snake. What is the name of the fish?

Animal Name: _____

Before the Basin Exhibit (top floor)

3. Go to the Champlain Sea Tide Pool. Is the water in the tank saltwater or freshwater? Is the water in Lake Champlain today saltwater or freshwater?

Champlain Sea Tide Pool is: saltwater freshwater

Lake Champlain today is: saltwater freshwater

4. List two animals in the exhibit that have claws and two animals that have tube feet.

Animals with claws

1. _____

2. _____

Animals with tube feet

1. _____

2. _____

5. Visit the Beluga Whale Dig. A fossilized Beluga whale skeleton was found deep underground in Charlotte, Vermont. Are whales found in Lake Champlain today? How is it possible that a whale skeleton was found in Vermont?

Land of Opportunity Exhibit (top floor)

6. Can you find an animal whose toes help it to climb trees? Name this animal, and write three describing words for the animal.

Animal Name:

Three describing words:

Is this animal a reptile, mammal, fish, amphibian or bird? Circle one.

7. Do you see any turtles basking (sunbathing) under the warm sunlamps? In the wild, turtles do this when the sun shines. Why do you think turtles spend so much time basking in the sun?

Is a turtle a reptile, mammal, fish, amphibian or bird? Circle one.

Into the Lake Exhibit (top floor)

8. Look at the fish in the large Lake tank. Find the fish with whiskers. What is the name of this fish and how do whiskers help them find their food?

Animal Name:

Invasive Species Exhibit (1st floor)

9. Some plants and animals that live in Lake Champlain do not belong in the lake. If a plant or animal comes from somewhere else and is causing harm to its new home it is called an invasive species. Find and name one invasive species found in Lake Champlain that is a plant and one that is an animal.

Invasive Species Name: _____

Plant or Animal
(Circle One)

Invasive Species Name: _____

Plant or Animal
(Circle One)



ECHO Ecology Trek
Grades 2-4
ANSWERS

Mezzanine Level

1. The longnose gar's torpedo shaped body helps it to *move in short speedy sprints*. The gar will hover near the surface, resembling a stick floating, lure small fish into its shadow and then make a quick lunge to capture its unsuspecting prey.

2. The American Eel

Before the Basin Exhibit (top floor)

3. The Champlain Sea Tide Pool is *saltwater*. Today, Lake Champlain is *freshwater*.

4. Animals with claws:

hermit crab

horseshoe crab

Animals with tube feet:

sea star

sea urchin

5. 13,000 years ago Lake Champlain was a saltwater sea that we now call the Champlain Sea.

Land of Opportunity Exhibit (top floor)

6. The Grey Tree Frog. The Grey Tree Frog is a gray, sometimes light brown, sometimes light green color. This allows it to camouflage itself on the tree branch. It is also a small, smooth skinned frog and often hard to find.

Frogs are amphibians.

7. Because turtles are cold blooded animals they bask in the sunlight to help maintain their body temperature. The sun also gives them nutrients that help them grow a strong, hard shell. Also the heat from the sun dries the shell which helps to control algae growth and parasites.

Turtles are reptiles.

Into the Lake Exhibit (1st floor)

8. The fish is called a sturgeon (catfish also have whiskers or barbels). Barbels have taste buds on them so as the fish drags them along the bottom they sample the landscape looking for something they can eat.

Invasive Species Exhibit (1st floor)

9. Possible answers include:

- White Perch – animal
- Rusty Crayfish – animal
- Koi or Common Carp – animal
- European Rudd – animal
- Spiny Water Flea - animal
- Water Chestnut – plant
- Eurasian Watermilfoil - plant

