Field Trip to the Seattle Aquarium

Use the exhibits and the interpretive signs to answer the questions.

**Questions:**

Start in the **Sound to Mountains Watershed Exhibit.**

1. What are the two major watersheds described in the exhibit?

1. What are the biggest threats to the watersheds in the Puget Sound Region?

2. **Observe the river otters.**
   a. What are they doing? (what is their behavior? Are they eating, swimming, etc…)

   b. What types of habitats are they found in?

3. **Observe the sea otters.**
   a. How do they differ from the river otters? What behaviors are they engaging in?

   b. Sea otters do not have a layer of blubber for insulation. How do they avoid freezing to death?

   c. What types of habitats are they found in?

4. **Observe the harbor seals.**
   a. What should you do if you find an “abandoned pup” on the beach

5. **Take a few minutes to enjoy the fish in the underwater dome.**

6. **Enter the Puget Sound Fish Room.** What are the three most important (MAJOR) aquatic habitats in the Puget Sound and why? List two species that are found in each of these habitats.
7. **Salmon and People.**
   a. What are the three water environments involved in the life cycle of the salmon.

   b. Observe the poster regarding threats to marine ecosystems in the Puget Sound Region. List two of those threats.

   c. What is the Seafood Watch program?

8. **Northwest Shores** – observe the different types of shorebirds. List 2 species of birds found in the exhibits, what do they eat, and their current status (threatened, endangered etc…) Also include what their primary threats are, if possible. THE SIGNS HAVE THIS INFORMATION!!! Fill in the table to the best of your ability.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Primary food(s)</th>
<th>Current status</th>
<th>Threats</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9. **Pacific Coral Reef**. List two examples of animals here and the ecological roles that they play in the coral reef ecosystem. Examples might include coral (what does it do for the ecosystem? Or cleaner wrasses (what do you think they do)? You can probably get some of this information by simply observing the animals and their behaviors.
10. Tide Pools
   a. Can you find at least one example each of a mutualism? What about an example of a commensalism? Specifically name the two species involved in each relationship.

   b. Compare and contrast the different adaptations of the animals in the Inland Seas touch tank vs. the Outer Coast touch tank. What are the differences in the environmental conditions they face each day?

   c. List two animals that are sessile (attached to one location) and their method of obtaining food.

11. Provide two examples of adaptations to avoid predation. Name the two species involved specifically and briefly describe their adaptations.

12. What was your favorite animal today and why?