Investigation Station: Specimen Object Analysis

YEAR 5 **BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES**





QUEENSLAND MUSEUM NETWORK



Future Makers

Future Makers is an innovative partnership between Queensland Museum Network and Shell's QGC business aiming to increase awareness and understanding of the value of science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) education and skills in Queensland.

This partnership aims to engage and inspire people with the wonder of science, and increase the participation and performance of students in STEM-related subjects and careers — creating a highly capable workforce for the future.

Cover Image: Pinstripe Butterflyfish, Chaetodon lunalatus. QM, Gary Cranitch.

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ENGAGE

Investigation Station: Specimen Object Analysis

Teacher Resource

This activity is designed to explore and build on students' prior knowledge of marine organisms. Object-based learning is, 'a mode of education which involves the active integration of authentic or replica material objects into the learning environment'¹ and is used to prompt investigation and promote student inquiry.

In this activity, students firstly observe a specimen. They may want use a magnifying glass to scan for finer details. They then identify what the specimen is, determine if it is real or a model/ representation and make an annotated scientific drawing to communicate ideas about the specimen. Following this, students examine the features of their specimen to make and record inferences about its habitat, movement, diet and predators.

Curriculum Links

Science

YEAR 5

Science Understanding

Living things have structural features and adaptations that help them to survive in their environment (ACSSU043)

Science Inquiry Skills

Communicate ideas, explanations and processes using scientific representations in a variety of ways, including multimodal texts (ACSIS093)

General Capabilities

Literacy

Composing texts through speaking, writing and creating

Numeracy

Using measurement

Critical and Creative Thinking

Inquiring: Identifying, exploring and organising information and ideas

Analysing, synthesising and evaluating reasoning and procedures

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¹Jamieson, A. (2016). Object-based learning: A new mode in Arts West. Retrieved from https://arts.unimelb.edu.au/articulation/editions/2016-editions/december-2016/object-based-learning-a-new-mode-in-arts-west

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Student Activity

What am I/what do I repr (if known)	esent?		
Is this specimen 'real' of a model/representation?	I		
Draw your specimen and	label the physical	features	
• Size			
• Shape			
Colour and pattern			
Skin covering			
 Limb type 			
 Mouthparts 			
• Other notable features			

Investigation Station: Evidence and Adaptations

Living things have features and behaviours that help them survive in their environment. We call these adaptations.

Specimen:		Prediction:	Evidence:
Habitat:	What type of environment does your animal live in?		
Movement:	How does your animal move?		
Diet:	What does your animal eat and how does it catch its food?		
Predators:	How does your animal stop and/or avoid predators?		

Look at the features of your specimen to answer the following questions:

List 2 questions you have about your specimen.

1.		
2.		