

POP! TEACHER RESOURCE

Lesson Plan

Living Together

Lesson Plan for *Clown Fish*

Grade 1

Objective

To help students use the concept of symbiotic relationships to understand how clown fish and sea anemones interact.

Things Needed

- *Clown Fish* book
- Whiteboard
- Access to the “Clown Fish” web page on the Pop! website:
<https://popbooksonline.com/ocean-animals/clown-fish>

Activity

Introduce the concept of symbiotic relationships to students. Explain that sometimes different types of animals work together to survive. Each animal does something that helps the other. Scientists use the term *symbiotic relationship* to describe this kind of relationship where both animals benefit. Clown fish and sea anemones have a symbiotic relationship. Students will learn how clown fish and sea anemones help one another survive.

First, turn to the index on page 24. Use the following prompt to guide students through looking up information in an index:

- An index lists some of the important topics described in a book. It also tells us where we can look in the book for information about those topics. For example, if we want to learn about the relationship between clown fish and sea anemones, which pages should we go to? (Answer: pages 6, 8, 11, 15, 17, and 18)

Write these page numbers on the board. Turn to each of those pages and invite a student to read the text out loud. After reading each page, ask students what new thing they learned about how clown fish and sea anemones interact. Write their answers on the board. Possible answers include:



- Clown fish live in sea anemones (p. 6).
- Sea anemones can sting and hurt fish, but their stings do not hurt clown fish (p. 6).
- Clown fish are covered in mucus, which protects them from the sea anemones' stings (p. 8).
- Clown fish help sea anemones by keeping them clean (p. 8).
- Clown fish brush against a sea anemone's tentacles so they can get used to one another (p. 11).
- Clown fish eat small plants and animals off the sea anemone's tentacles (p. 15).

Then, have students read the text and look at the image on the "Learn More" tab on the Pop! website. Ask the following question and write students' answers on the whiteboard:

- What new details did we learn about how clown fish and sea anemones interact? (Possible Answers: Clown fish can be seen easily. Sea anemones protect clown fish from being eaten. They sting animals that try to eat the clown fish.)

Lastly, use the following prompts to help students identify how both animals benefit from this relationship:

- How do clown fish benefit from living near sea anemones? (Possible Answers: The sea anemones are the clown fish's homes. Sea anemones protect clown fish from animals that would eat them.)
- How do sea anemones benefit from living near clown fish? (Possible Answer: Clown fish keep sea anemones clean by eating small plants and animals off the tentacles.)

Evaluation

Could students use the index to find information on the relationship between clown fish and sea anemones? Could students use the concept of symbiotic relationships to understand how clown fish and sea anemones interact?

Standards

This lesson plan may be used to address the National Science Education Standards' Content Standard C, grades K–4, and the Common Core State Standards' reading standards for informational texts, grade 1 (RI 1.1, 1.3, 1.5).

