



Marine Iguanas • Lesson Plan

Exploring Adaptations in the Galapagos Marine Iguana

Grade Level: 7-9

Video: www.blueworldtv.com/webisodes/watch/marine-iguanas

Duration: 3 class periods (approximately 45 minutes each)

Science Standards: This lesson plan aligns with the following science standards:

- ☐ **NGSS (Next Generation Science Standards):**
 - ☐ LS4.B: Natural Selection
 - ☐ LS4.C: Adaptation
 - ☐ LS4.D: Biodiversity and Humans
- ☐ **Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts:**
 - ☐ CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RST.6-8.7: Integrate quantitative or technical information expressed in words in a text with a version of that information expressed visually (e.g., in a flowchart, diagram, model, graph, or table).
- ☐ **Common Core State Standards for Speaking and Listening:**
 - ☐ CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.6-8.1: Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade 6 topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.

Learning Objectives:

1. Students will understand the concept of adaptation and how it relates to the Galapagos Marine Iguana.
2. Students will explore the unique physical and behavioral adaptations of the Galapagos Marine Iguana.
3. Students will appreciate the significance of the Galapagos Marine Iguana as a unique species and its role in the study of evolution.

Materials:

1. Video: "Marine Iguanas of the Galapagos."
2. Access to the video or a link to watch the specific segment about the Galapagos Marine Iguana.
3. Whiteboard and markers.

**Introduction (15 minutes):**

1. Begin by briefly discussing the Galapagos Islands and why they are significant for the study of evolution.
2. Emphasize that the focus of this lesson will be on one unique species found in the Galapagos Islands, the Galapagos Marine Iguana.

Viewing the Video Segment (10 minutes):

1. Show the specific video segment that features the Galapagos Marine Iguana.
2. Encourage students to pay close attention to the adaptation of the marine iguana and its unique behaviors.

Discussion (20 minutes):

1. After watching the video segment, lead a class discussion based on the following questions:
 - ☐ What are the key physical and behavioral adaptations of the Galapagos Marine Iguana?
 - ☐ How do these adaptations help the marine iguana survive in its environment?
 - ☐ What can we learn about adaptation and evolution from studying this unique species?
2. Write students' responses on the whiteboard for reference.

Activity: Adaptation Showcase (45 minutes):

1. Divide the students into small groups.
2. Assign each group one specific adaptation of the Galapagos Marine Iguana (e.g., its ability to dive and swim, its use of sharp claws for feeding underwater, its behavior when threatened by other animals).
3. Ask each group to create a presentation showcasing their assigned adaptation, explaining its significance for the marine iguana's survival.
4. Have each group present their Adaptation Showcase to the class.

Assessment (15 minutes):

1. Ask students to individually write a paragraph describing why the Galapagos Marine Iguana is unique and how its adaptations contribute to its survival.
2. Review the paragraphs for understanding.

Homework (if applicable):

1. Assign a short research project in which students investigate other unique species found in the Galapagos Islands and their adaptations, comparing them to the Galapagos Marine Iguana.



Conclusion (10 minutes):

1. Summarize the key points discussed during the lesson, with a focus on the adaptations of the Galapagos Marine Iguana.
2. Reinforce the idea that studying this unique species provides valuable insights into the process of adaptation and evolution.
3. Encourage students to continue exploring the marine iguana and its adaptations on their own.