Fishy Friends (PreK- 2nd Grades)

Description: Let's talk fishes LIVE from the Texas State Aquarium as your students observe and compare and contrast the diversity of fishes in Aquarium habitats. Together, we'll distinguish between fish body shapes, infer how shapes help them survive and thrive in their habitats, and draw a special fish.

Duration of Video: 30 minutes

Materials: Pencil & Paper for each student

Learning Goals & Objectives:

- compare fish body shapes to man-made objects
- observe fish in their habitats
- relate specific body shapes with perspective habitats
- create drawing of a fish and habitat

National Generation Science Standards:

2-L S4-1 Biological Evolution: Unity and Diversity	Make observations of plants and animals to compare the diversity of life in different habitats.
K-L S1-1 Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems: Animals, Plants, and Their Environments	Use observations to describe patterns of what plants and animals (including humans) need to survive.
K-ES S3-1 Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems: Animals, Plants, and Their Environments	Use a model to represent the relationship between the needs of different plants and animals and the places they live.

Texas Essential Knowledge & Skills Science Standards:

Grade Level	Standard	Explanation
K	10A: Organisms and environments.	Sort plants and animals into groups based on physical characteristics such as color, size, body covering, or leaf shape.
K	10B: Organisms and environments.	Identify basic parts of plants and animals.
1st	10A: Organisms and environments.	Investigate how the external characteristics of an animal are related to where it lives, how it moves, and what it eats.
2nd	9A: Organisms and environments.	Identify the basic needs of plants and animals.

2nd	10A: Organisms and environments.	Observe, record, and compare how the physical characteristics and behaviors or animals help them meet their basic needs.

Key Concepts and Vocabulary:

Adaptation- An adaptation is the physical or behavioral characteristic that allows an organism to survive in its habitat. Physical adaptations are parts of an organism that help it to survive in its habitat. Behavioral adaptations are things that the organism does to survive in its habitat. Adaptations result from a change to the organism's genes. The changed genes become helpful and are passed along to offspring. Since the trait is passed along to several generations it is now inherited, making it a trait of the species.

Optional Activities *PRE* program:

- Discussion with students: What makes a fish a fish?
- Read together fish themed books like "Fish is Fish" by Leo Lionni or "Mister Seahorse" by Eric Carle

Optional Activities *POST* program:

- Discussion with students: Ask them to define adaptation in their own words. Can they tell the difference between a physical and behavioral adaptation? Is body shape an adaptation? Can they think of something else an animal or plant does or has that would be an adaptation?
- Drawing: have students make up their own fantasy animal, and tell you a story (or write) about how their animal survives in its habitat.

Background/Resources:
FishBase www.fishbase.org