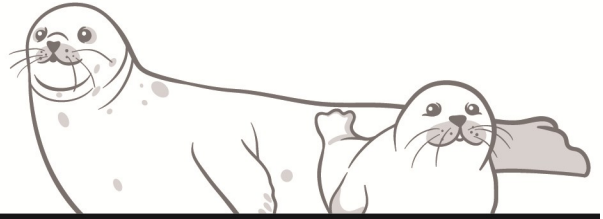




Lesson plan for grades 3–5

Animal birthday party planning



Let's Plan a Birthday Party for Siesta and Fiesta, Grade 3

Name: _____

Date: _____

Meet Siesta and Fiesta, blue-spotted stingrays in the care of the Seattle Aquarium. They're not twins but they are sisters. Please help us celebrate these wonderful rays.



We will be researching what Blue-spotted stingrays needs to stay alive and be healthy. What we learn will help us to design the perfect birthday party for them. After that we will make them a birthday card.

Background Questions

There are no right or wrong answers here. This is to help us start brainstorming and thinking deeply about birthdays.

What is a birthday?

Do you have a favorite way to celebrate your birthday?

What are some ways you have seen people celebrate birthdays?

Draw a doodle of a baby animal you have seen before.

Research Resources

Blue-spotted stingrays have many common names, they are also called Kuhls maskray, blue stingaree, and many more. They live in tropical warm waters of the Indo-Pacific. They tend to live in shallow water where there is lots of sand to bury themselves in. They often hide under the sands with only their eyes peeking out. The sandy bottom is also where they find their favorite food, like shrimp, small fish and worms. They catch their food by using their strong flat bodies to pin their prey against the sand and maneuver it into their mouths.

Blue-spotted stingrays can have up to seven pups at one time, that's a lot of siblings! But when they are adults, they tend to live alone. When mother stingrays have babies, they create eggs but keep the eggs inside their body to protect them. When the eggs hatch, the pups stay in the mother's body until they are ready to be born. Animals that hold eggs and hatch pups within their bodies until birth are "ovoviviparous." Oviparous means "egg laying", and viviparous means "live birth" so ovoviviparous means the mother both lays eggs and gives birth to live pups.

Adult blue-spotted stingrays can live to be about 10—13 years old in the wild. They don't get very big though, typically growing to be only 27 inches long and 18 inches wide.

When we don't know the exact day an animal is born we call it an approximate birthday. We don't know the exact days that Siesta and Fiesta were born but we know the months they were born. So we celebrate them any time in the month they were born in. Fiesta was born in January and Siesta was born in April.

Research Questions

From the resources available to you, try and find the answers to all of these questions. These answers will help you to plan the perfect birthday for Fiesta and Siesta that is safe, healthy and fun!

How long do blue-spotted stingrays live?

Years

Do blue-spotted stingrays hatch from eggs?

yes

no

Do blue-spotted stingrays do anything that you find interesting or helpful?

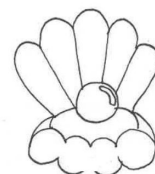
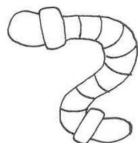
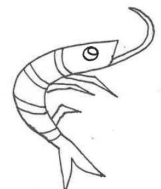
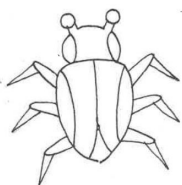
Do blue-spotted stingrays live alone?

yes

no

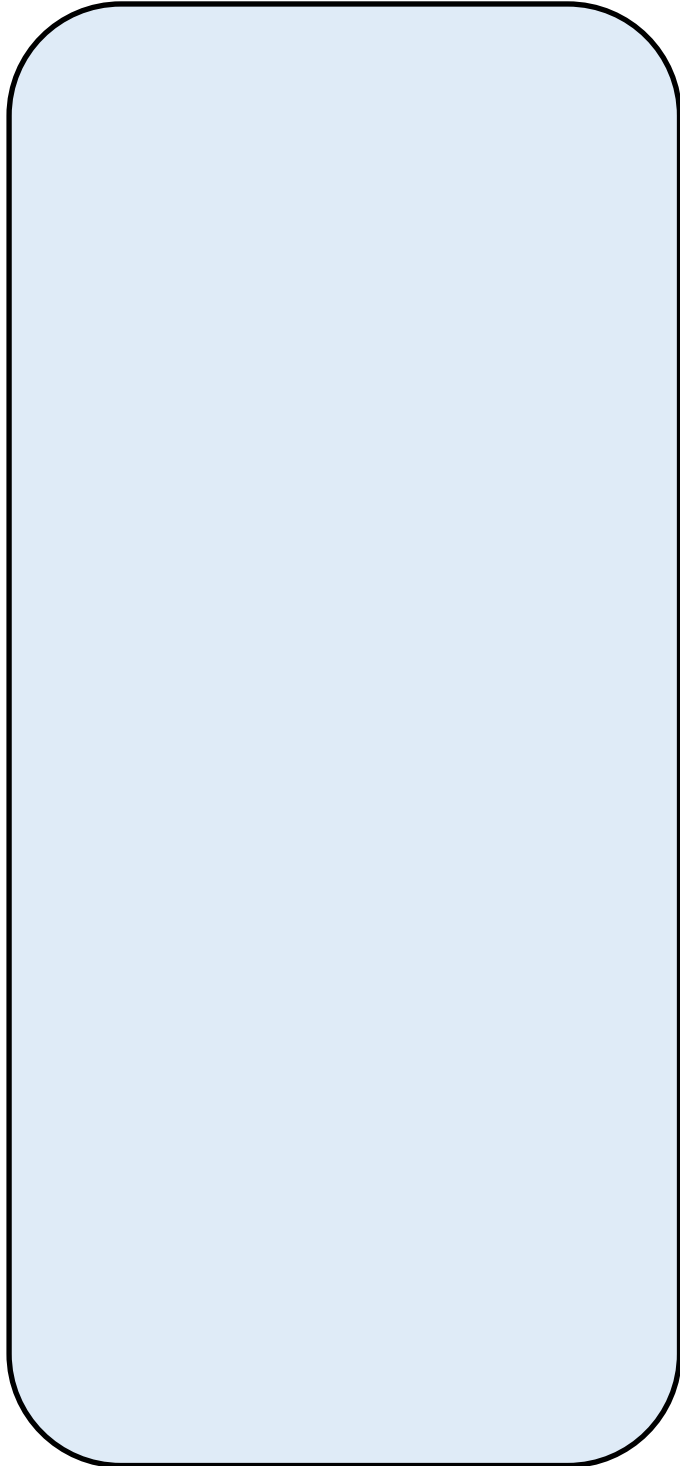
Where do blue-spotted stingrays live?

What do blue-spotted stingrays eat? Circle the correct foods.

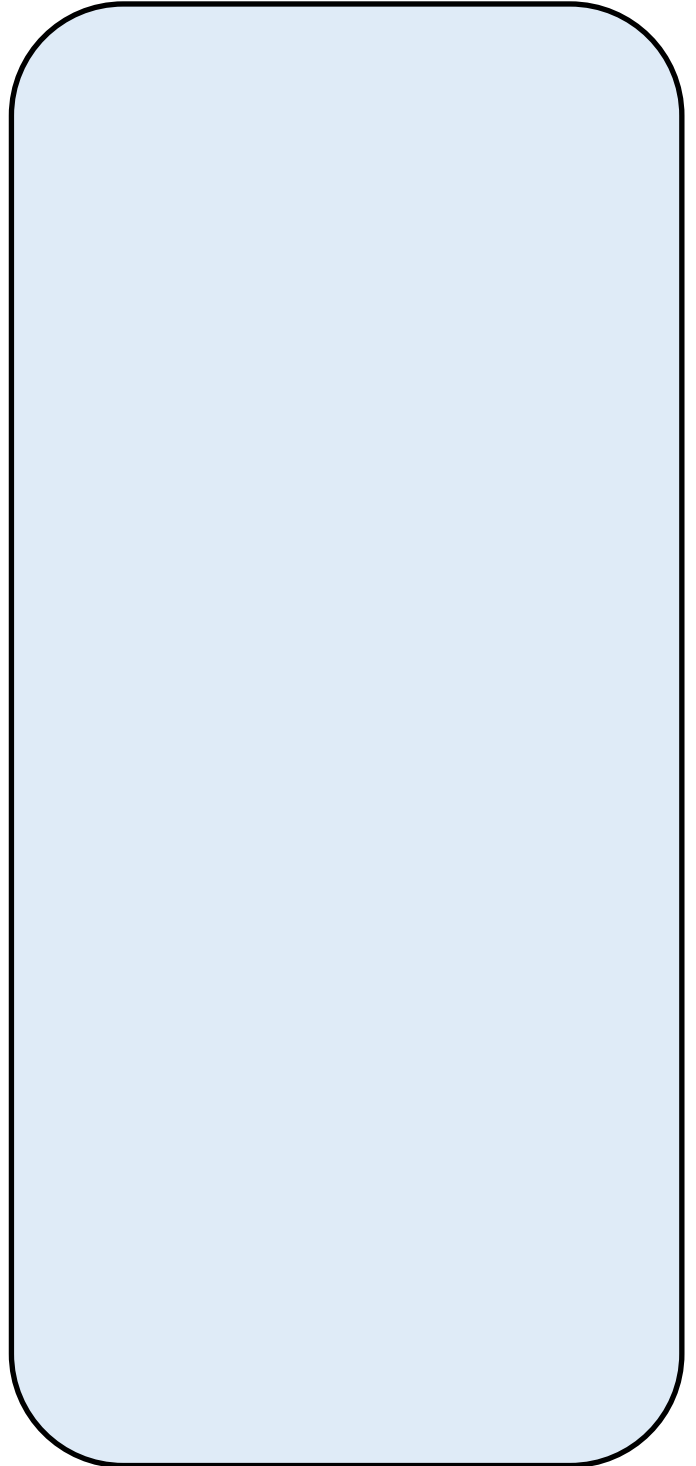


Brainstorming the Birthday!

Make a list of what would be included in your perfect birthday.



Make a list of what you think could be included in the perfect birthday for Fiesta and Siesta. Remember to use your research to come up with ideas.



Draw the Perfect Birthday!

Use the list you created to draw the perfect birthday for Fiesta and Siesta!

