Giants of the Sea

Pre – Class Activity

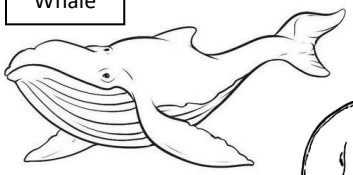
Introduction: Our oceans hold many interesting animals of all shapes and sizes. The "Giants of the Sea" class will focus on Marine Megafauna of the Georgia coast, such as turtles, whales, and sharks! Complete the following activity to prepare you for class.

Directions:

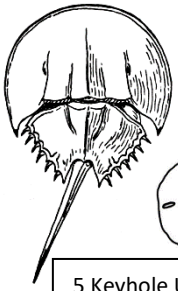
Answer the following questions and complete the following prompts:

1. What does 'megafauna' mean? _____
   _____
2. For the following animals, color those you think are 'megafauna'. Use any resources to make your determination!

Whale

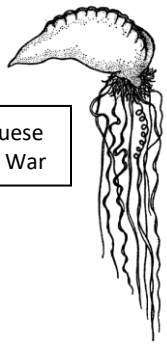


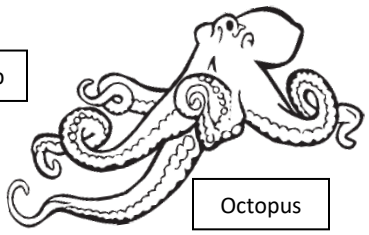
Horseshoe Crab



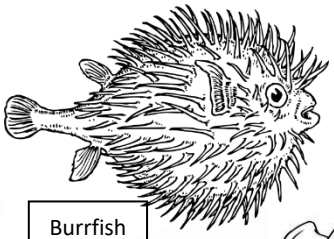
5 Keyhole Urchin

Portuguese Man of War

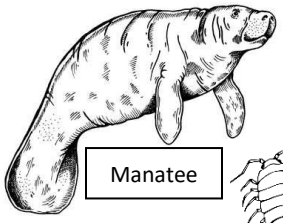




Octopus

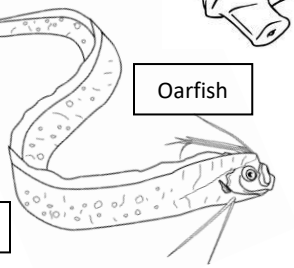


Burrfish



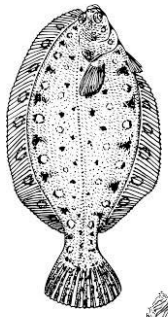
Manatee

Isopod

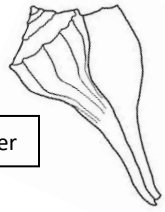


Oarfish

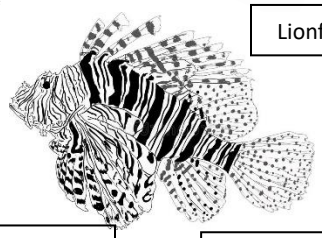
Shark



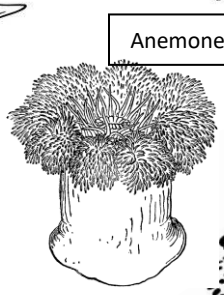
Flounder



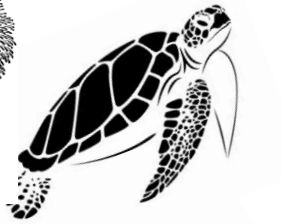
Knobbed Whelk



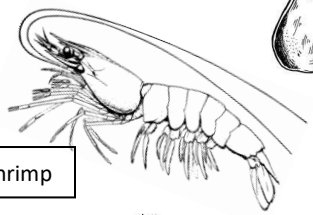
Lionfish



Anemone



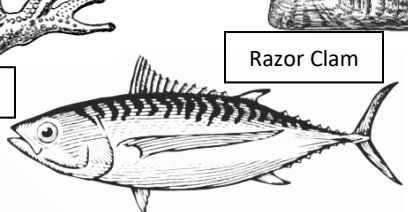
Sea Turtle



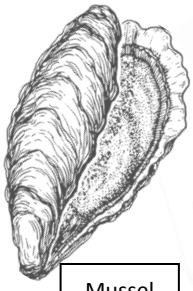
Shrimp

Coral

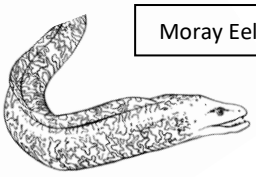
Razor Clam



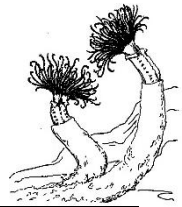
Tuna



Mussel

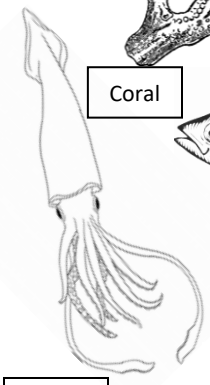


Moray Eel

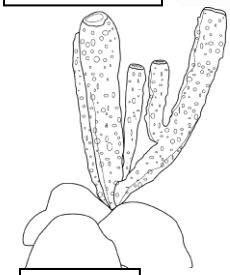


Tube Worm

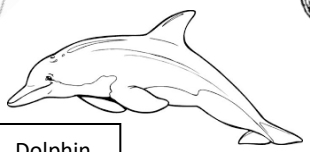
Seahorse



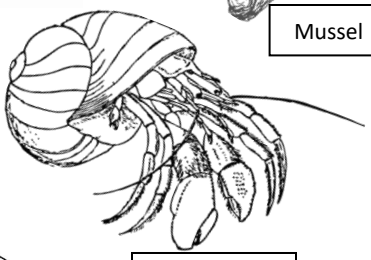
Squid



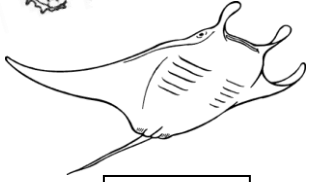
Sponge



Dolphin



Hermit Crab



Manta Ray

Giants of the Sea

Post – Class Activity

Introduction: In Driftwood's "Giants of the Sea" class, you learned our oceans hold many interesting animals of all shapes and sizes. The "Giants of the Sea" class had you practice your data interpretation skills and explained the importance of tagging an animal for data collection. This activity can be done as a student solo activity or a teacher can lead this activity in a class discussion for quicker completion.

Directions:

Ocearch is an organization that gathers and compiles tracking data for various marine megafauna worldwide. Their mission is to 'accelerate the ocean's return to balance and abundance' through technology, research, and more. In this activity, you will be using the ocearch tracking site: https://www.ocearch.org/tracker/?list

1. Choose one marine megafauna from the above link. The megafauna should be one found along the East Coast of the U.S. with at least 5 tracking points. Draw their path below and color parts of their path by month using the key:

January: Red
February: Orange
March: Yellow
April: Light Green
May: Dark Green
June: Light Blue
July: Dark Blue
August: Purple
September: Pink
October: Grey
November: Brown
December: Black

2. Fill in the data sheet below with information from the website:

Name:	
Species:	
Male or Female:	
Weight:	
Length:	
Age/Life Stage:	
Date and Location Tagged:	
Distance Travelled to Date:	
Reading the 'About' section for your animal, what may be the importance of tracking this specific animal, if any?	

3. Using the map above, complete the data sheet with your own ideas of what this animal's path may indicate:

Note any patterns you see in your animal's path:	
Why might your animal be in certain locations at certain times? (Think about seasons!)	
Discuss why your animal may have / have not crossed its own path or returned to where their tracking started (Think about this animal's habits!):	
Using your data, think about the path your animal took and how the species, age, or sex of the animal may have influenced where they moved:	
With your new knowledge of this specific animal, how would you use this information to help the entire species? (ex. If we know a species always gathers around Georgia in May, we should encourage boaters to be more cautious during this time.)	