



Mekong River

Tip Sheet

Let's Have a Wonder-full Time!



Pre-visit



Watch this video to plan your learning journey to Mekong River.

Introduce Mekong River and some of the fishes to your students before your visit:

- [Mekong River zone](#)
- [Meet the Keepers – Sandra & the Giant Freshwater Stingrays](#)
- [#AskMandaiAnything – River Wonders](#)

You might also wish to download this resource to enhance the learning experience:

- [Animals We Love: Stingrays](#)

Use this social script to prepare the children for the visit to River Wonders:

- [River Wonders Social Script](#)

Getting To Mekong River



From the entrance, make a left turn and take a 30-minute stroll along the sheltered walkway towards Mekong River.



Download the Mandai App to view the map on mobile

During Visit

Mekong giants



Use See-Think-Wonder Thinking Routine to observe and make comparisons between the giant fishes.

Additional prompting questions:

1. How many different types of giant fishes do you see in this exhibit?
2. Describe what makes each of these giants different from the rest.
3. I wonder which body parts help them swim differently?

Move like a fish



Practise focus and self-control and listening skills through this fish movement game. Choose a fish and imitate the way it swims and eats.

Additional prompts:

Play 'Simon Says' using the actions of the fish. Modify the activity by adding variations to your instructions such as:

- Swim fast.
- Swim slow.
- Swim like a fish that might be feeling happy, sad, angry, or hungry.

Back to school



Encourage collaboration and teamwork by looking for friends who are moving like the same fish. Create the shape of the fish with all the same fish friends.

Additional activity:

As a group, line up to measure the length of the giant fish. How many children does it take to form the length of one fish?

Word Bank

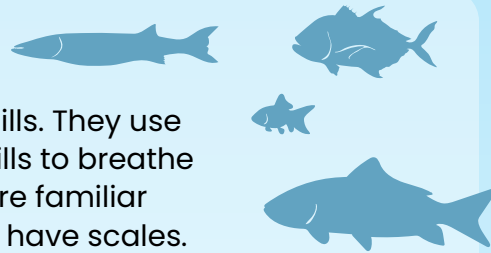
Here are some words that might be new to your class.

Essential Agreements

Simple guidelines to regulate your children's behaviour that you get your class to agree to.

Fish

A fish is an animal with fins and gills. They use their fins for swimming and the gills to breathe oxygen in the water. Most of us are familiar with scaly fishes but not all fishes have scales.

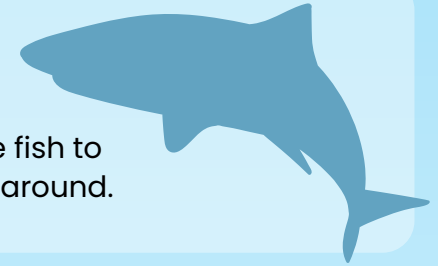


Fresh water

Fresh water is what we drink. It is not salty like the water in the oceans. Rain is freshwater, which can also be found in rivers and lakes. Freshwater habitats are important to humans and animals - 50% of all the fish species live in freshwater habitats.

Dorsal Fin

A special fin on the back of a fish, like the top fin of a shark. This fin helps the fish to turn and keep its balance as it swims around.



Herbivore

An animal that eat plants like grasses, leaves, and vegetables.

Algae

Algae are plant-like organisms but they are not true plants. They can make use of sunlight to make food - a process called photosynthesis. Algae can be green, red or brown. They live mostly in water but can be found in other environment. Examples of algae include seaweed and kelp.

I Spy

Mekong giants are found at different levels in a river. Some live near the water surface, some in mid-level and others at the river bed.



Siamese carp

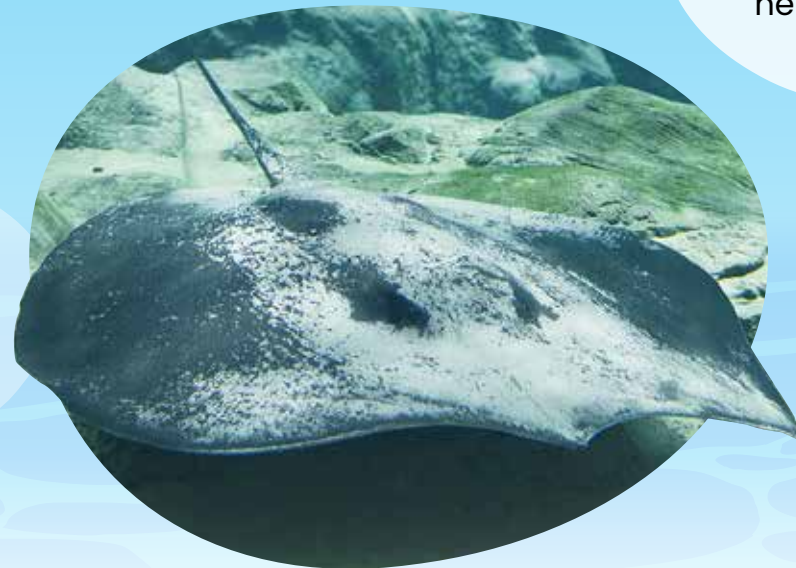
The giant catfish feeds on algae and plants on riverbeds while the Siamese carp eats phytoplankton, algae and fruits of submerged plants.



Mekong giant catfish

Observe the mouth of these fishes. How do you think their mouths help them feed?

The giant freshwater stingray is a bottom feeder. Its diet includes shellfish, crabs and other invertebrates.



Giant freshwater stingray

Post-visit



Extend learning in your classroom



1. Guess Who?

Objectives:

- To promote understanding of diversity.
- To foster language development.

Materials Needed:

- Pictures or illustrations of people from diverse backgrounds, including various ethnicities, ages, abilities, and genders.
- Pictures or illustrations of animals and fish and reptiles and insects that you saw at the Zoo.
- Labels with descriptions (Optional)

e.g.

With animals:

Guessing Game: Choose one picture and describe a particular feature or characteristic of the person or animal in the picture without showing it directly. For example, "This person has curly hair," or "This animal has fur." Then, ask the children to guess which picture matches the descriptions.

2. Let's Go Swimming!

Play this video for a fun music and movement activity to practise focus and self-control:

[Let's Go Swimming by The Laurie Berkner Band](#)

3. My River

Create a collaborative diorama of the Mekong River. Have the children draw or shape the fish out of playdough and place them in different parts of the diorama.

Additional resources

Find out more about our programmes in River Wonders:

[Preschool programmes](#)

