

Aquarium

Sandra and her class were going to the aquarium on a school trip. Sandra had never been to an aquarium before and was very excited. They had been studying life in the ocean for the last few months, and she was desperate to see the colourful fish and coral reefs. Sandra had a secret that she had never told her friends. She had never been to the seaside, either. She hadn't splashed in the sea or stood on the sand.

It wasn't because her parents didn't like holidays. In fact, they loved them. However, their idea of a good holiday was something much colder. They loved to ski, so every year, they went away to the mountains and played in the snow. Sandra loved those holidays, but she also wanted to see the sea. The aquarium was going to be the closest she got.

The journey was going to take over half an hour, so the children had to get to school early. Sandra was there just after 8 o'clock, and the coach arrived at half-past. They all bundled aboard, and off they went. Sandra and her friends played a game of Happy Families with a pack of cards that Audrey had brought with her. Sandra was just about to win when the coach pulled into the car park! How annoying!

While the teachers picked up the tickets, Sandra and Audrey wandered around the entrance. There were huge glass cylinders filled with coral reefs and schools of colourful fish. One had an enormous eel in it that was hiding under a pile of rocks. Sandra tried to make an eel impression with her face. Audrey found it hilarious!

The exhibit inside the aquarium was a big glass tank. It was only as tall as Sandra's waist but was very big. Inside it, lots of fish called rays swam about. The lady standing next to it said that they could put their hand in the water. Sandra tried it, and the rays all swam to the surface to rub against her!

After that, they went through to another room called "The Beach". Sandra was so excited when she saw the name. They went along a corridor and into an enormous room. Just inside the door, there was a big sandy beach. They had recreated a shallow sea that washed over it. Around the side were several rock pools.

They both shook off their shoes and socks. Audrey grabbed Sandra by the hand and pulled her over to the first rock pool. They stepped into it, and Sandra squealed at the feeling of wet sand between her toes. In the next one, they found a group of crabs, and there were even small fish in the sea.

When they had all played on the beach, they went to the cafe to eat their lunch. The rest of the day was spent looking at fish, sharks and even an octopus. Sandra loved them all, but none were as good as the beach!

1

What was Sandra looking forward to seeing at the aquarium?



1 mark

2

What was Sandra's big secret?



1 mark

3

Where did Sandra often go on holiday?

Tick **one**.

The beach

The mountains

The forest

The far side of the world



1 mark

4

Who did Sandra splash in the water with?



1 mark

5

What did Sandra do on the fake beach?

Give **two** activities.

1.

2.



2 mark

SATs Practice - Answers

1. Colourful fish and coral reefs
2. She had never been to the seaside
3. The mountains
4. Audrey
5. Splashed in the sea
Found crabs and fish in the rockpool