

ENRICHMENT EXTRAVAGANZA



Watch the “Meet Hope-Winter the Dolphin: Saving Winter- Episode 9” to meet our youngest resident dolphin Hope and see her many enrichment devices.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8LUQNhbqBEI>

For instructors, parents, or guardians:

Lesson learning objectives: By the end of this lesson, students will be able to define environmental enrichment device (EED) and understand how they benefit animals in human care.

1. **Introduce the topic:** An environmental enrichment device, or EED, is something used to improve the quality of our resident animals' lives. EEDs can be used in many different ways. For example, they can be used to give the animal something to learn with or from, just like going to school. These strengthen the animal's brain. EEDS can also be used for exercise, just like P.E. The last type of EED is just for fun, like a toy. Our animals usually get all three types of EEDS every day and they come in many forms. Our animals also all use and prefer different EEDS.
2. **Environmental Enrichment Device –“EED:”** An environmental enrichment device, or EED, is something used to improve the quality of our resident animals' lives. EEDs can be used in many different ways. For example, they can be used to give the animal something to learn with or from, just like going to school. These strengthen the animal's brain. EEDS can also be used for exercise, just like P.E. The last type of EED is just for fun, like a toy. Our animals usually get all three types of EEDS every day and they come in many forms. Our animals also all use and prefer different EEDS.
3. **Meet Hope:** Hope is the youngest of our four resident bottlenose dolphins. She was rescued on December 11th, 2010 from the same area as Winter. Hope did not strand because she had any illness or injury. She was found with her mother who had already passed away. At the time, Hope was only thought to be 2-3 months old. Bottlenose dolphins, like humans, have to learn how to live on their own. Being so young, Hope didn't know how to live alone yet in the wild, so Clearwater Marine Aquarium took her in as a permanent resident. Hope is one of our most energetic dolphins and her favorite EED seems to be anything that involves water play.



4. **EEDS in the video; what were they used for?:**

Below are some of the environmental enrichment devices used in the video. Review their uses with your student(s).

- Blue Floating Mat: This appears to be one of Winter's favorite EEDS. She often uses it for resting and will fold herself into it. Smaller rafts are used with our otters. It provides a small physical challenge for them to bring themselves onto the raft which gives them essential exercise.
- Bubbles: Bubbles are used with many of our animals. Hope seems to like underwater bubble rings and bubbles in the air. These are mostly used for fun but if Hope chases the bubbles, she is exercising.
- Water Squirter: This is definitely Hopes favorite EED but all of our dolphins seem to enjoy water play. In the video, you can see Hope's Animal Care Providers squirting water at Hope's mouth. Dolphins only breathe through their blowhole, so Hope often opens her mouth for water play. We aren't 100% sure why Hope likes water sprayed at her so much but we think it is because dolphins have very sensitive skin, so this may feel kind of like a nice body scrub to her.
- PVC Pipe with Felt: At about 0:50 seconds into the video, you may see Hope pulling these materials up and down in her pool. Our Animal Care team often puts what looks like random pieces of EEDS together like this in our dolphin's habitats. Here you may notice that the PVC floats up. Hope bringing the EED up and down gives her exercise. EEDS like this seem to be Nicholas's favorite type of EED.
- Window: The underwater windows can be used for many types of enrichment. Hope often likes to investigate the people visiting CMA at these windows. We have also trained her to visit the windows when asked. This is a learned behavior which means it is good for her brain.
- Animal Care Specialists: One EED that we use all the time is people. Building a connection with Animal Care Specialists is important in caring for our animals because it builds trust. This team spends almost all day with our animals and set aside certain amounts of time to focus on one particular animal each day. This trust allows for better training and care.

5. **Put your student(s) learning to the test:** Can your students choose the correct EED to give to the Clearwater Marine Aquarium resident?

Answers: PVC with Felt, Target Pole, Bubbles, Pool, Forage Feeder.

PICK THAT EED!

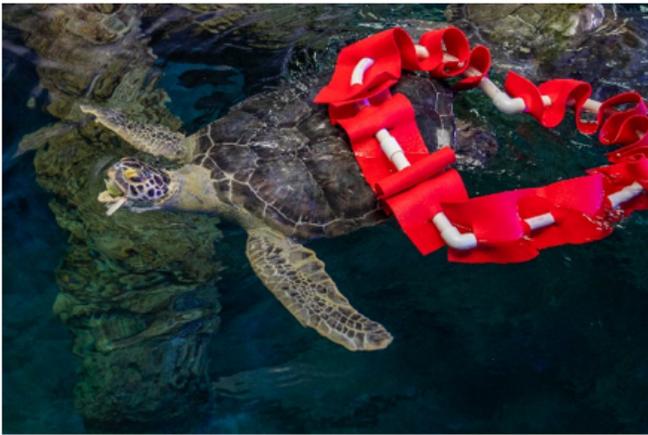


Choose the correct EED based on the plan the Animal Care Team has chosen for each resident today.

1. Our sea turtles seem to enjoy getting their top shell's (or carapace's) scratched. Their spine and ribs are a part of this shell, so they can feel a lot through it. The EED the Sea Turtle Care team is going to put in their habitat today is the

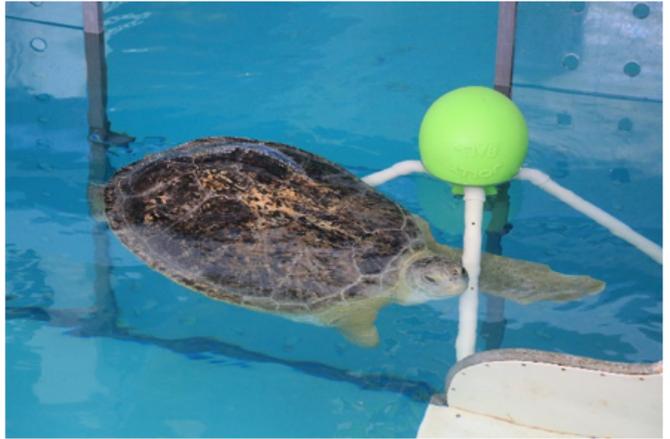
_____.

PVC with Felt



or

PVC with Jolly Ball



2. Hope has been participating in her husbandry all day. To reward her, we are going to give her _____ in her habitat for her to play with.

Blue Mat



or

Bubbles



PICK THAT EED!



3. Ricky and the other resident pelicans need a fun way to exercise. The Animal Care team is going to join the pelicans in their _____ to exercise their legs.

Pool



Sand Box



or

4. The otters, Walle and Boomer, would hunt for food if they were in the wild. To give them similar enrichment, we are going to put a _____ in their habitat which will help them use their minds to find a way to get a snack, like a puzzle.

Water Tub



Forage Feeder



or

FOR AN ADDED CHALLENGE: MAKE YOUR OWN EED!

Do you have a pet at home or a favorite animal plush you would like to make an EED for? Get creative and use what you have around your home to make unique EEDs. We have provided some examples to help you get started! Always supervise your pet when it is using its EED.

Treat Forage Feeder: Forage feeder is a fun way for your pet to find its food. To make your own forage feeder, you will need:

- A paper towel or toilet paper tube
- Paper
- Scissors (with supervision)
- Rubber bands, tape, string, or glue



1. Cut two squares out of your paper.



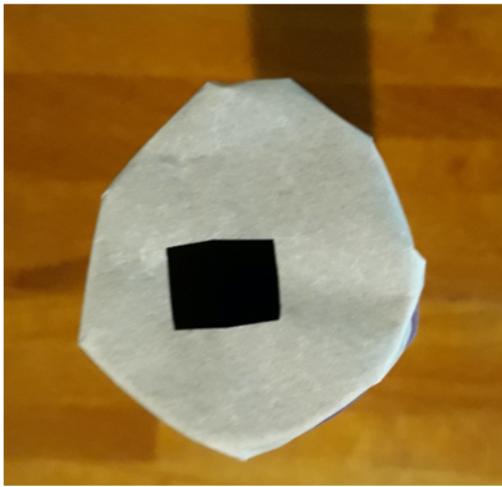
2. Fold one of the two squares in half. Set aside the other square for later.



3. Cut a square, rectangle, or hole along the crease of your folded paper. This should be big enough for your treats to fall out of but not so big they all fall out easily.



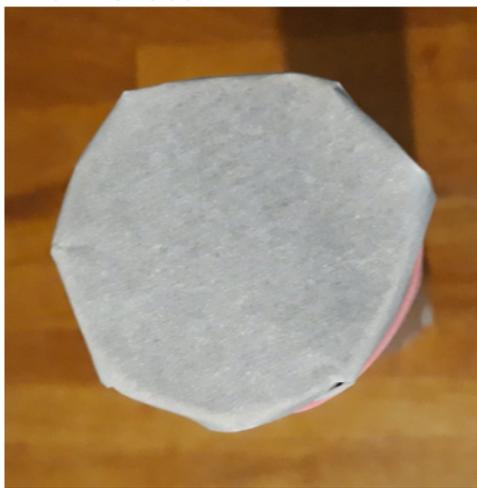
4. Open your paper back up.



5. Use a rubber band, glue, tape, or string to place paper over one end of the tube.



6. Fill empty end of tube with some treats.



7. Cap the other end of the tube with the other piece of paper.



8. Final result!



9. Let your pets enjoy!



Pupsicles: Just like the animals at the Clearwater Marine Aquarium, our pets at home also enjoy toys, treats and playtime. Try making an edible EED for your dog at home to enjoy!

To make pupsicles at home you will need the following:

- Cups (however many you'd like to make), or a popsicle tray
- Dog treats
- Water or diluted broth (chicken or beef)
- Extra treats your dog might enjoy (peanut butter, blueberries, pieces of apple or carrot, or any dog safe food items)



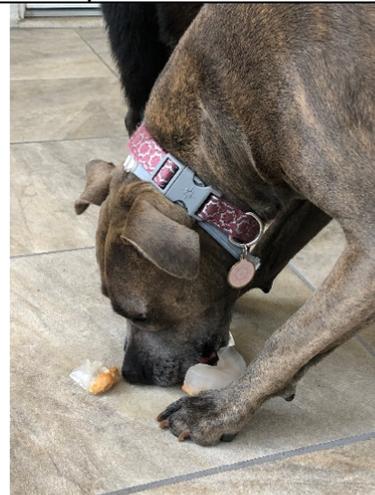
1. Place a slender dog treat (the stick of the pupsicle) in a glass and fill with extra goodies.



2. Fill the glass with enough water or broth mixture to cover any extras added. This example uses a biscuit crumble and peanut butter. Place in the freezer and make sure they will not tip over.



3. Once frozen, run warm water over the outside of the ice treat to loosen it from the container.



4. Let your pet enjoy their treat!



Plush Hammock: If you don't have a pet, make an EED for your favorite animal plush! Here, a scarf was tied to the legs of a chair to provide a cool hangout spot for an otter plush! A bandana, small blanket, or towel can also be used.

