

Ecosystems and Habitats

GRADES 3 – 5



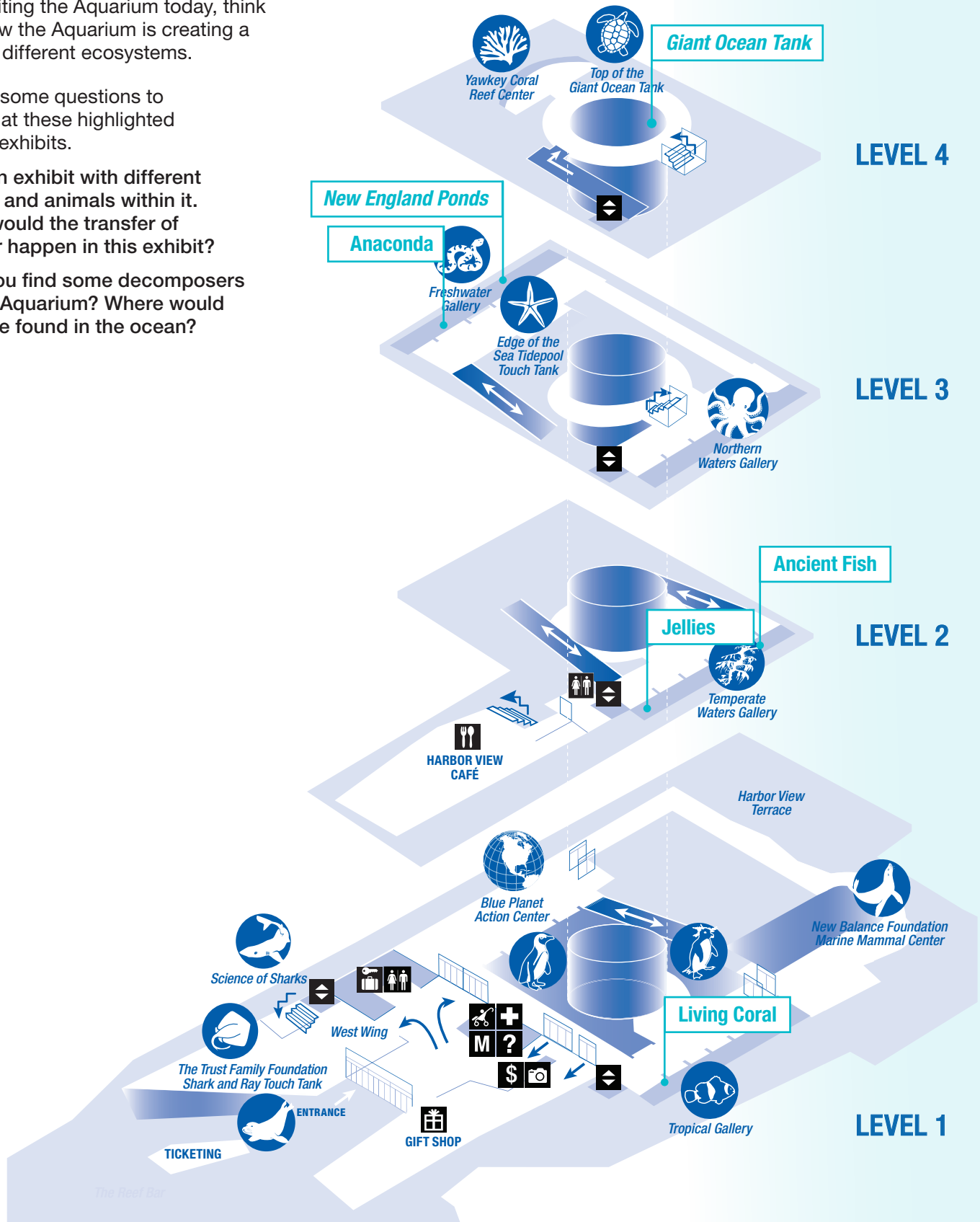
New England Aquarium

Protecting the blue planet

While visiting the Aquarium today, think about how the Aquarium is creating a model of different ecosystems.

Here are some questions to consider at these highlighted galleries/exhibits.

1. Find an exhibit with different plants and animals within it. How would the transfer of matter happen in this exhibit?
2. Can you find some decomposers at the Aquarium? Where would they be found in the ocean?



Food Webs and Energy

GRADES 3 – 5



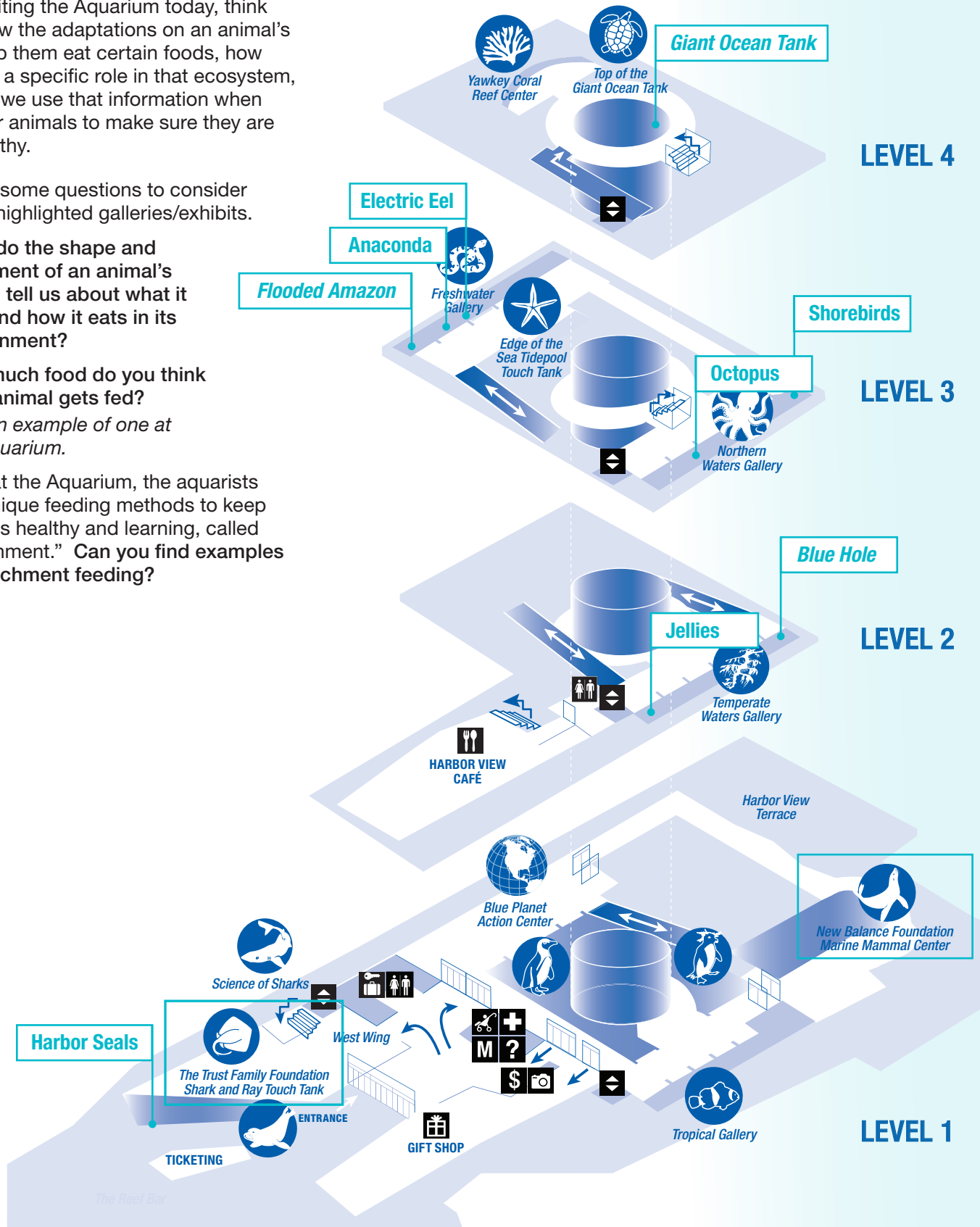
New England Aquarium

Protecting the blue planet

While visiting the Aquarium today, think about how the adaptations on an animal's body help them eat certain foods, how they play a specific role in that ecosystem, and how we use that information when caring for animals to make sure they are kept healthy.

Here are some questions to consider at these highlighted galleries/exhibits.

1. What do the shape and placement of an animal's mouth tell us about what it eats and how it eats in its environment?
2. How much food do you think each animal gets fed?
Find an example of one at the Aquarium.
3. Here at the Aquarium, the aquarists use unique feeding methods to keep animals healthy and learning, called "enrichment." Can you find examples of enrichment feeding?



Adaptations and Evolution

GRADES 3 – 5



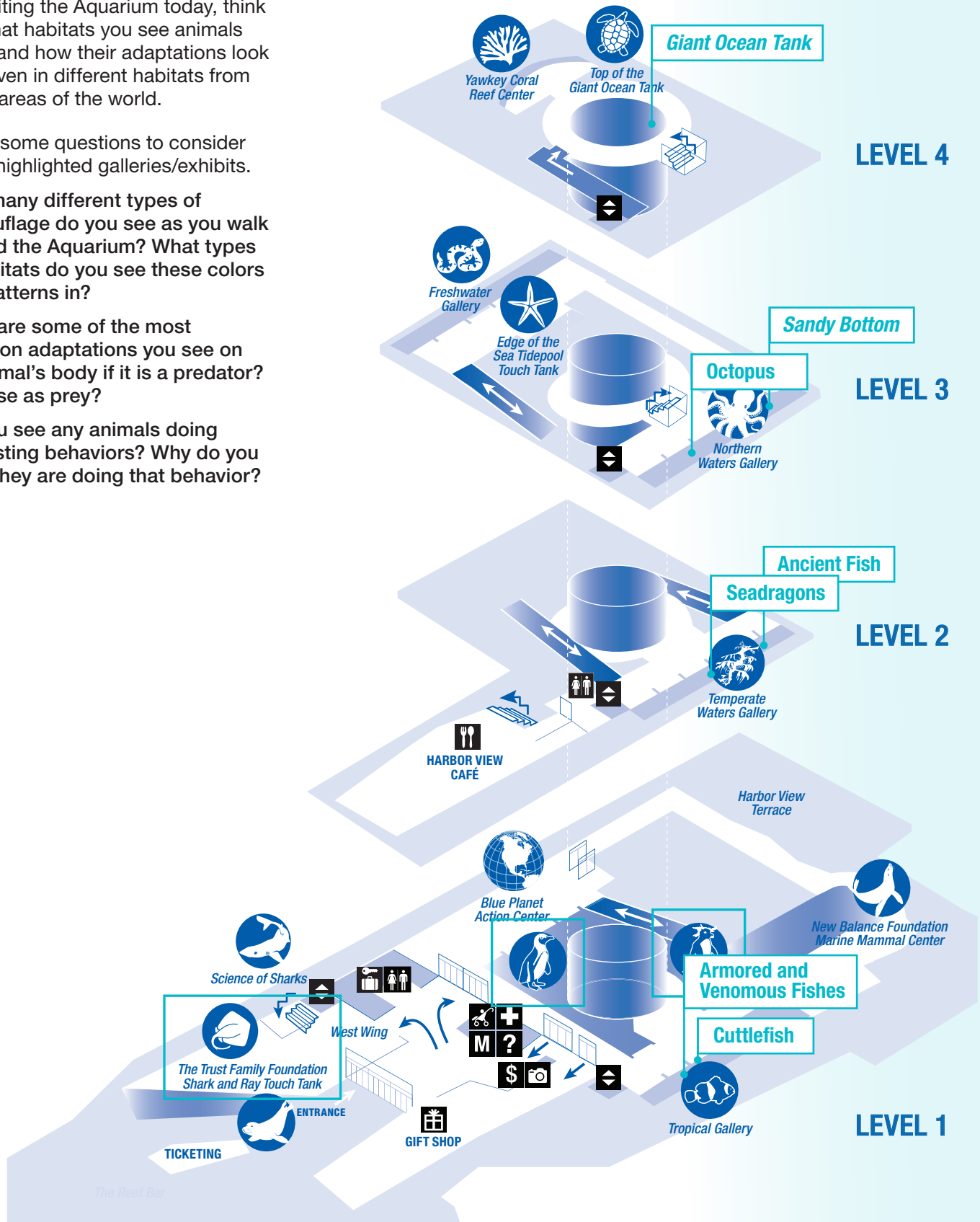
New England
Aquarium

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While visiting the Aquarium today, think about what habitats you see animals living in, and how their adaptations look similar, even in different habitats from different areas of the world.

Here are some questions to consider at these highlighted galleries/exhibits.

1. How many different types of camouflage do you see as you walk around the Aquarium? What types of habitats do you see these colors and patterns in?
2. What are some of the most common adaptations you see on an animal's body if it is a predator? Defense as prey?
3. Do you see any animals doing interesting behaviors? Why do you think they are doing that behavior?



Climate Change and Conservation



New England
Aquarium

Protecting the blue planet

GRADES 3 – 5

While visiting the Aquarium today think about how humans impact ecosystems, and how those interactions change the ecosystems over time.

Here are some questions to consider at these highlighted galleries/exhibits.

1. What happens to an ecosystem when the environment changes?
2. What is climate change and how do we see it impacting different habitats?
3. The number of different species that live in one ecosystem is called biodiversity. Can you find the most biodiverse exhibits in the Aquarium? Which habitats are they, and what impacts to humans have on those habitats?

