



EXPLORING CREATION WITH

# MARINE BIOLOGY

2nd EDITION

Frequently Asked Questions

## COULD YOU TELL ME SOMETHING ABOUT SHERRI SELIGSON, AUTHOR OF EXPLORING CREATION WITH MARINE BIOLOGY, PLEASE?

Prior to her promotion to Mother, Sherri Seligson earned a degree in biology/pre-med with an emphasis in marine science. She was a marine biologist for Disney World where she worked with predatory ocean creatures. Sherri has published research on shark behavior.

Along with being the author of Apologia's high school curriculum *Exploring Creation with Marine Biology*, Sherri is the instructor for Apologia's video instruction DVDs for *Exploring Creation with Biology*, *Exploring Creation with Chemistry*, and *Exploring Creation with Advanced Biology: The Human Body*.

Sherri has also written several unit study e-books for Grace Hill Media to accompany the *Dolphin Tale* films, *War Horse*, and the DVD educational series *Little Angels*.

An experienced homeschooling mom, Sherri stays active in the homeschool community by leading field trips, teaching, and speaking at conventions, retreats, and science fairs.

Apologia is also pleased to have **Dr. Robert Carter** as the technical editor of the new edition of *Exploring Creation with Marine Biology*. Dr. Carter holds a Ph.D. in marine biology from the University of Miami. He has been published extensively as a creationist and was one of the scientists featured in the recent film, *Is Genesis History?*

## WHAT IS THE COURSE'S GRADE LEVEL, AND ARE THERE PREREQUISITES?

Apologia's *Exploring Creation with Marine Biology* is rigorous and thorough. We recommend it as an upper level high school course as it requires knowledge of general biology and assumes that students have participated in lab activities such as experiments, dissections, and microscopy.

A traditional high school track typically consists of biology the freshman year, chemistry during the sophomore year, physics in the junior year, and an upper level science course such as marine biology during the senior year.

Apologia recognizes that courses such as chemistry and physics have math prerequisites. Algebra 1 is needed before taking chemistry, and physics requires Algebra 1, geometry, and beginning trigonometry. If a student has completed general biology but does not yet have the math required to move into chemistry or physics, he or she may successfully take marine biology while continuing to increase math skills. Many colleges look for biology, chemistry, and physics on a high school transcript.

## WHY MARINE BIOLOGY?

About 71 percent of our world is covered by water. God filled this marine world with fascinating, alien, and bizarre creatures that are remarkable to study and understand. Most students have a natural captivation for the oceans and their mysterious residents. New discoveries are being made in the ocean world all the time, but our oceans are still one of the least explored areas in the solar system – we know more about the Moon than we do about ocean floors. *Exploring Creation with Marine Biology* is one of the few courses available to the homeschool community that includes marine ecology.

## I THOUGHT ECOLOGY WAS A FOUR-LETTER WORD. WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

When God created the Earth, He designed an astonishing ecosystem for His glory and the needs of His creatures. It is not here to be a tool for politicians or social planners, but it is very real, serves a crucial purpose, and needs to be understood. This course delves into the relationships between species, such as food chains, food webs, and how animals interact with their environments and each other. Students will learn why icebergs may be floating in one part of an ocean while molten lava suddenly starts flowing into another part, how the effects of El Niño in Ecuador can flood the Mississippi River basin, and what occurs when a plankton bloom begins to release toxic poison into the world around it. When students study the complex systems of the ecology system, they begin to understand how our magnificent Creator's creation works and how we can help protect it while being good stewards of it.

## CAN MY STUDENT EARN CREDIT FOR THIS COURSE?

Absolutely! Apologia's marine biology course can satisfy a full science credit in either marine biology or marine science, depending on the course codes in your state. While we highly recommend that students complete the entire textbook so that they cover all the topics, this is a college preparatory course. Therefore, completing at least 80 to 85 percent of the course material is an honest full credit. Completing at least two of the three types of labs (which include experimentation, dissection, and microscopy) qualifies marine biology as a lab course. All labs in at least two of the types of labs must be completed by students. The material in this course is rigorous enough to prepare students for college-level work. This course may be listed as an advanced course on transcripts, which colleges like to see.

## CAN WE USE MARINE BIOLOGY AS AN HONORS COURSE?

This can be listed as an honors-level course if all the modules are completed. This means all labs must be completed, documented in a lab notebook, and graded. All exams must be taken and grades should be recorded.

## WILL I NEED ADDITIONAL BOOKS OR EQUIPMENT?

The marine biology course consists of a student textbook, a solutions and test manual, and a student notebook. The notebook is designed with a daily schedule, note-taking pages (a critical skill needed for college), space to answer all study questions found in the textbook, lab report pages to help students document and master the process of writing a complete lab report, and additional materials not found in the textbook. Because biology is a prerequisite for this course, it is assumed that the student has dissection tools and access to a microscope. Students will need to purchase the marine biology prepared slide kit and the dissection specimens.

Highly recommended, yet optional, materials include the video instruction DVD where Sherri Seligson provides full instruction for the course and takes students on location to experience the material they are studying. The DVD also shows video coverage of every lab exercise found in the textbook. There is also an audiobook available on iTunes, Amazon, and Audible.

## HOW MUCH TIME WILL A STUDENT NEED FOR THIS COURSE?

Like all the other Apologia high school science courses, this course is designed so that a student should be able to complete it in two semesters, spending about 45 minutes, five days a week, on the subject.



### HOW MUCH OF THE PARENT'S TIME WILL THIS TAKE?

Apologia believes in helping students reach their full potential, whatever their learning style. Our textbooks are written in a conversational tone so that students can easily navigate through the curriculum on their own. The textbook and student notebook help students methodically learn, self-check, and master difficult concepts before moving on.

Some students learn best when they can see and hear what they are studying. Apologia's audiobook offers the complete course of the text read aloud. Students can follow along with the audio while reading.

Sometimes lessons are easier to comprehend when the topics are presented by a knowledgeable instructor. Apologia's video instruction DVDs enhance the learning experience and help your student successfully complete the course materials.

For students who require interaction with others with the ability to ask questions to an instructor, Apologia offers the Apologia Online Academy. The structured virtual classrooms are also available for streaming on demand.

As you can see, there are many options available to teach your child. You know your student's learning style best. Your primary role with any of these choices will be to grade your student's course materials.

### HOW MUCH PREP WORK IS INVOLVED?

Parents mainly need to be aware of when the exams occur during the course, as well as which labs are coming and when. The student notebook contains a daily schedule for students to follow and is an easy place to track their progress. At this stage in their high school careers, students should be more independent in their preparation for college success.

### WHAT IS THE VALUE OF THE STUDENT NOTEBOOK?

The student notebook provides an organized, complete lesson plan for the year with a daily schedule that lets students check off their progress as they work their way through the course. The notebook is designed with a place for module notes, a place to answer all study questions found in the textbook and reprinted in the notebook, lab report forms for each experiment in the textbook to help your student master the process of writing a complete lab report, and extra materials to help your student succeed.

### WHY IS THERE AN MP3 AUDIO?

Auditory learners take in written information better if they hear it as they read along. Audio helps them stay focused because the brain is able to give more attention to the text. The audiobook is the full text of the course read aloud. It should not take the place of the textbook, but it can be used in addition to it.

### HOW DOES THE VIDEO INSTRUCTION DVD FIT IN?

An instructor is teaching the course in the videos, using visual animations and on-location video clips. This helps students absorb the concepts in a richer and more engaging way, and it encompasses all types of learners. The animations help explain more difficult concepts in an interactive way, rather than in a static, two-dimensional text only. Additionally, the DVD includes all the laboratory exercises performed and explained by Sherri Seligson.

### IS THIS COURSE AVAILABLE IN APOLOGIA'S ONLINE ACADEMY?

Apologia's Online Academy offers *Exploring Creation with Marine Biology* as a two-semester course taught live by an instructor with whom students may interact. Additionally, the Academy offers recorded graded and recorded ungraded options. This is ideal for parents who feel that their students need more instruction to succeed.

