

DEEP OPENS NEW LIVING RIVERS DISPLAY FOR EASTER

The Deep is unveiling its new display for Easter. Living Rivers showcases some of the greatest river systems of the world including the Rio Grande, the Amazon and the Mekong. The display also includes the first 'Fog Screen' to be installed in the UK – a unique walk through experience. The exhibit is brought to life by carefully chosen exotic species including red-bellied piranha, fishing spiders, a colony of leaf cutter ants and an emerald tree boa.

Deep chief executive Colin Brown explains, "It's estimated that 80% of all pollution in our oceans comes from land-based activities via rivers and land run-off, so we felt that it was time to feature some of the world's greatest river systems and their inhabitants. We look at the ecosystem of each river and the particular threats it faces, which include mining, deforestation, and overfishing. The exhibition compliments our marine displays and is a vital part of our story line. Living Rivers has been designed and built by our in-house team as part of our 10th anniversary year series of developments. The Fog Screen is an amazing new projection technology which uses ultra sound to create a moving image on a curtain of mist, which people can walk through. It's truly 'mist-ifying'!"

Deep curator Katy Duke leads the team that selected and care for the new animals in the displays. Katy says, "It's been a fascinating departure for us to look into the biology of exotic freshwater animals. We have chosen examples from each river system, and their surrounding habitat to show the intricacies of life in these fragile habitats and how closely they affect one another. The star of our new collection is the emerald tree boa from the Amazon, so named for its incredible green colouring."

Background Information

Emerald Tree Boa *Coeallus caninus* AMAZON

So named for its remarkable colouration. This species spends its day coiled on a tree branch overhanging water where it is best positioned to catch birds, bats and other small prey.

Red-bellied piranha *Pygocentrus nattereri* AMAZON

These fish said to be one of the most ferocious freshwater in the world!

Their short jaws are lined with razor sharp teeth, well able to take a bite out of much larger fish.

Axolotl *Ambystoma mexicanum* RIO GRANDE

This strange looking creature is not a fish but an amphibian, descending from what were once terrestrial salamanders – effectively evolution in reverse! Although completely aquatic, they have lungs, however they breathe primarily through their prominent feather-like.

Chaco Palma Pupfish *Cyprinodon veronicae* RIO GRANDE

Their name comes from the elaborate courtship dance that males and females display during the breeding seasons. Now extinct in the wild, the only populations you will ever see are in aquariums such as The Deep. Agriculture has resulted in the destruction of this fish's habitat through pollution of water courses

Bumblebee goby *Brachygobius* sp. MEKONG

The bumblebee goby, so called for its yellow and black striped colouration. Even its movement is similar to its namesake! It lives in slow moving brackish and freshwater coastal river systems, scouring the river bed for invertebrates to feed on.

Further information

Public: Please call 01482 381000 (option 3) or visit www.thedeep.co.uk

Press: Please contact Linda Martin on 01482 381090 or email linda.martin@thedeep.co.uk or

Becky Leach on 01482 381092 or email becky.leach@thedeep.co.uk.

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