

Ashley's Amazing Amazon Adventure: Discovering the Pink River Dolphin!

Welcome, Explorer Ashley! Today, we're going on an exciting journey deep into the Amazon rainforest to learn all about a very special and mysterious creature: the Pink River Dolphin, also known as the Boto!

Part 1: Meeting the Boto (Approx. 20-30 minutes)

Let's find out what makes these dolphins so unique!

1. **Watch & Wonder:** Let's watch a short, kid-friendly video about Amazon River Dolphins. *(Teacher: Search YouTube for "Amazon River Dolphin kids" or "Boto facts for kids". Preview for suitability.)*
2. **Fact Finding Mission:** Together, let's look up some cool facts and pictures online. We're looking for answers to these questions:
 - What color are they? Why might they be that color?
 - What do they eat?
 - How is their body different from dolphins that live in the ocean? (Think about their snout, neck, and fins!)
 - Where exactly in the Amazon do they live? What is their home like?
 - Are they friendly or shy?
3. **Discussion:** Let's talk about what we discovered! What was the most surprising thing you learned about the Pink River Dolphin? What are some special things (adaptations) that help it live in the murky Amazon waters? *(Teacher: Guide Ashley to identify at least 3 adaptations, e.g., long snout to find food in mud, flexible neck, good echolocation, small eyes due to murky water.)*

Part 2: Creating Your Amazon Diorama! (Approx. 45-60 minutes)

Now that we're Boto experts, let's build a mini Amazon River home for our dolphin!

1. **Set up your River Scene:**
 - Use your shoebox as the river. You can line the bottom and back with blue construction paper for water, or paint it blue.
 - Use green and brown paper (or paint) for the riverbanks and rainforest background. Add some drawn or cut-out trees and plants.
2. **Sculpt your Boto:**
 - Use the pink or gray clay/playdough to sculpt your own Amazon River Dolphin. Remember its long snout and any other features we talked about!
 - Place your dolphin in its river home.
3. **Decorate the Habitat:**
 - Add details like yarn for hanging vines, small pebbles for the riverbed, and craft moss or green felt for underwater plants or floating lily pads.
 - Be creative! Think about what you saw in the pictures and videos.

Teacher's Tip for Ashley: Think about the adaptations we discussed. How can you show them in your diorama? Maybe your dolphin is using its long snout to look for a fish near some plants!

Part 3: Show and Tell & Story Time! (Approx. 15-20 minutes)

Ashley, your diorama looks fantastic! Now it's time to be a Boto expert and storyteller!

1. **Diorama Tour:** Show me your diorama and tell me about the Amazon River Dolphin you created.
 - Point out at least three special things (adaptations) about your dolphin.
 - Explain how these features help it find food, swim, or live in the Amazon River. For example, "This is its long snout, which helps it dig for crabs in the muddy river bottom!"
2. **A Boto's Day (Optional Creative Extension):** Imagine your dolphin is going on an adventure in your diorama. Can you tell a short story about its day? What does it see? What does it do? Who does it meet?

Wrap-up:

Great job today, Ashley! You learned so much about the amazing Pink River Dolphin and created a wonderful habitat for it. These creatures are truly special, and it's important to learn about them and help protect their home in the Amazon rainforest.

What was your favorite part of learning about the Boto today?