

Skulls & Furs

Grades: Pre-K

Duration: 30 minutes

Program Description:

Learn about animals native to Louisiana! Looking at their skulls and fur, examine their adaptations and defenses and what they need to survive. Touching allowed!

Louisiana GLE:

Pre-K:

Science As Inquiry – The Abilities Necessary to Do Scientific Inquiry

1. Ask questions about objects and events in the environment (e.g., plants, rocks, storms) (PK-CS-I1) (SI-E-A1)
2. Pose questions that can be answered by using students' own observations and scientific knowledge (PK-CS-I1) (SI-E-A1)
3. Use the five senses to describe observations (PK-CS-P3) (SI-E-A3)

Physical Science

9. Sort objects using one characteristic (PK-CS-P2) (PS-E-A1)

Life Science

19. Identify parts of the body and how they move (PK-CS-L1) (LS-E-A3)
20. Give examples of different kinds of plants and different kinds of animals (PK-CS-L1) (LS-E-A4)

Key Terms:

Adaptation: any alteration in the structure or function of an organism or any of its parts that results from natural selection and by which the organism becomes better fitted to survive and multiply in its environment.

Camouflage: concealment by some means that alters or obscures the appearance of an organism which allows it to protect or hide itself from other organisms.

Carnivore: an animal that eats flesh or meat – whether or not the animal is living (predation) or dead (scavation).

Crepuscular: an animal that is active during twilight – at dusk and dawn.

Defense: the act or means of protecting against attack, danger, or injury.

Habitat: the area or environment where an organism normally lives or occurs.

Herbivore: an animal that feeds mainly on plants.

Marsupial: animals that have a distinctive pouch where the female carries the young through early infancy.

Nocturnal: describes animals that sleep during the daytime and are active at night.

Omnivore: an animal that eats both plants and meat.

Skeleton: the bones of a human or an animal considered as a whole, together forming the framework of the body.

Connections to Permanent Exhibits:

Aaron & Peggy Selber Red River Interactive Theater: Enjoy a memorable 15-minute film that will immerse you in the power and influence of the river on our lives. Using objects, sound and projected images, the Theater demonstrates past and present relationships of the Red River to the land forms, the flora, and fauna.

Staying Alive: Get a close-up view of Louisiana animal life in a variety of terrariums and aquariums. Sci-Port's biologists will bring these animals out for a close encounter of the "natural" kind! You will see a variety of amphibians and reptiles. How are they different? How are they similar?

Build a Skeleton: Take apart a colorful layered puzzle of the human body and replace the organs, bones, and muscles one layer at a time.

Artificial Joints: What kind of joints do you see in this exhibit? Where are they located?

Mr. Torso: Remove and replace the internal organs of a plastic model. Where is your liver, stomach, heart?

Bone Junctions: How many ways can you connect these bones? Can you describe a joint and what are some types of joints?

X-ray Puzzle: Use comparative skills to assemble different x-ray images of a whole person. Identify the skeletons of a variety of animals.

Heavy Load: Apply stress to a photoelastic plastic section shaped like a femur. See the strain pattern and compare it with the real sectioned femur beside it. The real femur has internal strengthening structures just where the strain develops.

Creature Corner: Guinea pigs, hissing cockroaches, hermit crabs, etc. The animals are ambassadors for use by demonstrators to discuss their many characteristics and adaptations.

Web Resources:

National Geographic Kids:

<http://kids.nationalgeographic.com>

Kidport

www.kidport.com

Internet based educational service used to help kids excel in school:

The major components of Kidport are Coherent Learning System: Think-and-Learn Modules, Curriculum-based Content : Workbook Modules and Reference Library—What Kids need to Learn, Compelling Experience : Project Modules—What Kids Love, Learning Processes : Learning Styles—How Kids Learn

Teachers.net

www.teachers.net

Connect with other teachers on grade levels, projects and curriculum

Pre-Visit Activities:

kids.nationalgeographic

<http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/>

Visit the National Geographic site and allow students to browse the various animals

Skulls PDF

University of Arizona College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

<http://ag.arizona.edu/pubs/natresources/az1145.pdf>

Diagrams, activities, questions and answers, vocabulary, etc

Mammals

Discovery Channel, Animal Planet

<http://animal.discovery.com/mammals/>

Research and discover wild animals from around the world.

Animal Cams Smithsonian WebCam

http://nationalzoo.si.edu/Animals/WebCams/?hpout=webcam_link&xtr=

You can watch what's going in the animal enclosures on your computer right now! At the Smithsonian website live animal cams.

Post-Visit Activities:

Use the following websites to allow students to play animal games to help follow-up on your visit.

PBSkids

<http://pbskids.org/zoboo/>

Switcheroo Zoo (a.k.a. Switch Zoo)

<http://www.switcheroozoo.com/>

Wildlife Conservation Society, Kids Go Wild

<http://www.kidsgowild.com/kidsgowildgames>

A to Z Kids Stuff

Complete the unit with animal crafts, puppets, songs etc. from

<http://www.atozkidsstuff.com/zoo.html>