

Discovery Lab Pre-Visit Activities Habitat Hike (Life Science) Kindergarten

Thank you for booking your field trip to the Orlando Science Center! As a means of preparing your students for their Discovery Lab and enhancing their experience, we are providing you with these pre-visit materials to share with your class.

Discovery Lab Description:

In this exploratory lab, you will hike in unknown territory to find and rescue lost animals! Follow their tracks and find the animal to put it back in its habitat! The answer isn't always under your nose, sometimes it's under your toes!

Common Core Standards:

SC.K.N.1.1, SC.K.N.1.2, SC.K.N.1.5, SC.K.N.2.2, SC.K.L.14.1, SC.K.L.14.3, SC.K.L.14.In.3

Key Vocabulary:

- Life Cycle the sequence of stages of life of an animal or plant
- Prints a mark made by pressure
- Thorax the middle of the three main divisions of the body of an insect; the part of the body of a mammal between the neck and the abdomen; also: its cavity in which the heart and lungs lie
- Abdomen the hind portion of the body behind the thorax in an arthropod; the part of the body between the chest and the hips

Key Concepts:

- Plants and animals are alike and different in the way they look and in the things they do.
- All plants and animals, including humans, need the basic necessities of air, water, food, and space.
- Animals have different body parts than humans, and different body parts do different things.

Discussion Topics:

- There are five senses: seeing, hearing, smelling, tasting, and touching.
 - How can we use our five senses to investigate the world around us? What can our senses tell us?
- Living things have many different needs. All living things have the same basic needs in common and every organism has its own way of making sure that its basic needs are met.
 - What basic needs must be met to keep plants and animals alive and help them grow? What
 would happen to the plants and animals if these basic needs were not met? Compare and
 contrast the ways that different living things meet their basic needs for survival.
- Every organism requires a place to live that satisfies its basic needs for air, water, food, and space. Such a place is called a habitat. Several different types of living things may all share a single habitat.
 - Suggest a list of possible habitats. Have the students agree or disagree about each suggestion.
 What kinds of animals live in the habitats? Which ones would you never see?



- Have you ever wondered how animals behave, and why they behave differently from us?
 - O How do snakes move?
 - O Why do alligators have tails, but not humans?
 - o How does an octopus move differently from us? A fish? A bird?
 - o How does a bird eat differently? How is its mouth different? Does it have ears?

In Class Activities:

- Science is about testing and making close observations. Some scientists use microscopes to take a close look. You can use a toilet paper roll! Close one eye and look through the tube and observe! Choose something interesting: a tree trunk, a leaf, or a flower. Put your tube close to the object, and then look from far away. Does it look different? What do you see? Describe what you see: Is it wet or dry? Hard or soft? Smooth or rough? Alive or not? What colors and shapes do you see? Now you know how to observe and describe things in nature, just like a scientist! Draw what you see!
- Go on a schoolyard safari! Look and listen for animals by searching carefully on the bark and leaves of trees, in the cracks of sidewalks, among blades of grass, and in the soil around plants. In addition to looking for actual animals, remember to look and listen for signs of animals, such as spider webs, feathers, nests, animal tracks, and bird or insect sounds. Even in the most urban environments, you can usually find some signs of animal life. Most of the animals your students find will likely be insects and other small creatures. All animals, large and small, need food, water, and shelter from their environment. Remember, people are animals too! Around the school, there will be plenty of signs of "people life."
- Pick some common animals students are familiar with, and have a game of charades, with only sounds and movement!

Additional Resources:

http://www.kidsbiology.com/ http://www.biology4kids.com/ http://www.epa.gov/kids/ http://kids.nbii.gov/ http://www.mbgnet.net/