



“What Class Are You In?” Simple Classification Program

“What Class Are You In?” introduces students to the division and classification of different animal groups based on characteristic similarities. The six primary groups this program focuses on are: mammals, fish, reptiles, birds, amphibians, and invertebrates (with an emphasis on insects and arachnids). Teaching points of this program include the differences between vertebrates and invertebrates, distinction by body coverings, biological characteristics (breathing apparatus, birthing methods, locomotion, etc.), physical/behavioral adaptations, metamorphosis, and warm blooded vs. cold blooded body types. At the end of this program the students should have a working understanding about how/why certain animals are arranged into specific groups, including the types of physical characteristics that define these groups as a whole.

Grades 1-3

“My Plant Ate My Homework” Plant & Animal Relationships Program

“My Plant Ate My Homework” is a program which focuses on the biological aspects of plants (lifecycle, anatomy, basic needs) while explaining them in conjunction with the multiple associations they share with animals. Our “plant 101” section covers plant survival needs, basic structure and anatomy, pollination and seed dispersal, adaptations, photosynthesis, and seed to maturity lifecycles. From there we move onto the relationships and interdependencies that plants share with animals: food sources, medications, habitats, camouflage, locomotion, tools, and symbiotic relationships. We then touch on how plants play a large role in our daily lives and how we can help to keep plants, animals, and habitats safe for future generations.

Grades 4-6

“Crawly, But Not So Creepy” Halloween Program

The *“Crawly, But Not So Creepy”* Halloween Program focuses on the common misconceptions of nature’s “less cuddly” animals. This program (although Halloween themed due to the time of year) can be used as a general information lesson highlighting the positive roles many of these animals play in nature while clearing up any myths, misinformation, and/or childhood/adult phobias and fears. The three primary groups of animals we focus on are snakes, spiders and bats, while briefly touching on other groups such as insects, amphibians, giant snails and anything else that goes bump in the night. The “fearful” characteristics of these animals are looked at in depth and explained in a way that focuses on their function and purpose, thus creating an understanding for their place in the world while hopefully sparking some fascination and intrigue as well. By the end of this program our goal is to foster an understanding and appreciation for these unique animals in addition to finding creative ways to preserve their habitat and view them safely in nature.

General Programming

“Home Sweet Biome” Habitats Program

“Home Sweet Biome” introduces students to the functions and diversifications of global habitats. Students will learn about macro-habitats such as hot deserts, tropical rainforests, and arctic tundra, all the while discovering the micro-habitats within these large biomes such as tree hollows and isolated vernal pools. Students will also learn about the components required to create a healthy habitat and how it is able to sustain life. In an effort to expand on these basic concepts, we then introduce the dynamics of a habitat, natural food chains, producers and consumers, photosynthesis and the distribution of energy. This is then capped off with the specific adaptations of animals (both physical and behavioral) and how human influence plays a significant role in the modern lives of animals. With this information students will gain a better understanding of habitat importance, human impact, and local conservation initiatives which they can start right in their own communities.

Grades 4-6