

CLASS PLAN

Classifying Critters

Prepare for an exhilarating adventure and meet some of the Museum's incredible Animal Ambassadors. These lively Museum residents will spark curiosity and inspire children's questions and observations as they discover the similarities, differences, and defining characteristics of different animal groups.

Location: Discovery Place Science

Program Area: Early Childhood

Duration: 50 minutes

Group Maximum: 25 students

Audience: PreK-K

Major Concepts:

- How scientists classify animals based on distinguishing characteristics, similarities, and differences
- Animals share basic needs including food, water, shelter, and space

North Carolina Essential Standards:

K.L.1: Compare characteristics of animals that make them alike and different from other animals and nonliving things

North Carolina Foundations for Early Learning and Development:

CD-14: Children observe and describe characteristics of living things and the physical world

CD-15: Children explore the world by observing, manipulating objects, asking questions, making predictions, and developing generalizations

South Carolina Standards:

K-LS1-1: Use observations to describe patterns of what plants and animals (including humans) need to survive

Next Generation Science Standards:

K-LS1-1: Use observations to describe patterns of what plants and animals (including humans) need to survive

Class Objectives:

Children will:

- Notice similarities and difference of animals within the same group as well as similarities and differences in animals of different groups
- Build understanding about which animals belong to various classifications by recognizing the distinguishing characteristics of each group
- Observe characteristics of live animals and accurately predict their classifications

Methods and Activities:

- Discovery Place educator will engage children in a discussion about the different groups of animals and their defining characteristics.
- Children will observe several of the Museum's Animal Ambassadors and predict their classification based on the animal's physical characteristics.
- Children will explore specimens from the Museum's collection.

Key Vocabulary:



DISCOVERY PLACE

Classification, similarities, differences, reptile, amphibian, fish, bird, insect, mammal, arachnid, vertebrate, invertebrate, cold-blooded, warm-blooded