

What Do Skulls Tell Us About Animals?

Grade Levels: 3–5

Program Description:

All animals, whether they are herbivores, carnivores, or omnivores, must find enough food to survive the winter. Using the Hitchcock Center’s skull and mounted animal collection, we will study the characteristics and adaptations of local animals. Outdoors, we will look for signs of animal activity and learn about their habits. Snowshoes may be used in winter.

Group size: Up to 24 students. We can provide snowshoes for students and 2 adults.

Massachusetts Curriculum Standards:

Grade 3: Life Science

LS3. Heredity: Inheritance and Variation of Traits

3-LS3-1. Provide evidence, including through the analysis of data, that plants and animals have traits inherited from parents and that variation of these traits exist in a group of similar organisms.

LS4. Biological Evolution: Unity and Diversity

3-LS4-2. Use evidence to construct an explanation for how the variations in characteristics among individuals within the same species may provide advantages to these individuals in their survival and reproduction.

Grade 4: Life Science

LS1. From Molecules to Organisms: Structures and Processes

4-LS1-1. Construct an argument that animals and plants have internal and external structures that support their survival, growth, behavior, and reproduction.

Grade 5: Life Science

LS2. Ecosystems: Interactions, Energy, and Dynamics

5-LS2-1. Develop a model to describe the movement of matter among producers, consumers, decomposers, and the air, water, and soil in the environment to (a) show that plants produce sugars and plant materials, (b) show that animals can eat plants and/or other animals for food, and (c) show that some organisms, including fungi and bacteria, break down dead organisms and recycle some materials back to the air and soil. *Note: This lesson focuses only on animals and their diet within the ecosystem.*



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