



INVESTIGATION ZOOLOGY

Level: **Grades 3-5**

Length: **45 minutes**

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Explore the tree of life in this mystery organism investigation. In this station-rotation program, students will be assigned a “Mystery Animal” and will answer questions about the organism at each station to discover its identity. Students will examine significant adaptations which define and classify groups of organisms and will identify where their “Mystery Animal” fits in the evolutionary tree based on the adaptations which help it survive.

CURRICULUM CORRELATIONS

Students will:

- Obtain and evaluate information to compare the similarities and difference in groups of organisms. **S5L1a**
- Investigate the roles of organisms within an ecosystem. **S4L1a,b**
- Explore the advantages of animal adaptations. **S3L1b,c**

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

How are *structure* and *function* related in organisms?

PROGRAM VOCABULARY

Adaptation
Invertebrate

Carnivore
Omnivore

Habitat
Taxonomy

Herbivore
Vertebrate

PRE-VISIT ACTIVITIES

As a class, review vocabulary and identify some different types of animals defined by shared characteristics. Discuss some types of animals which live in Georgia and what traits or behaviors they have to help them survive.

AT THE MUSEUM

Be sure to visit **A Walk Through Time in Georgia** and have students search each diorama for animals which live in (and are adapted to) the ecosystems of Georgia.

POST-VISIT ACTIVITIES

Have students research and write a report about one of the animal species (or closely related species) they saw during the program, including its habitat, role in the ecosystem, and adaptations.