



LIVING WILD

Level: **Grades 6-8**Length: **45 minutes**

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Discover the wonders of the animal kingdom as you meet members of Fernbank's live animal collection. Insects, reptiles, and amphibians will help your students understand habitats, adaptations, and the important roles these animals play in the environment. Our animal ambassadors will inspire your students to appreciate and protect the natural world.

CURRICULUM CORRELATIONS

Students will:

- Discuss the taxonomic classification of major animal groups and compare their physical characteristics. **S7L1**
- Discuss the roles of animals in the food chain as consumers and as prey to other animals. **S7L4a,b**
- Study the behavior and life history of animals, focusing on their survival adaptations. **S7L4a**
- Discover the importance of animals in the environment. **S7L4a**

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

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

PROGRAM VOCABULARY

Adaptation
ClassificationHabitat
Keystone Species

Niche

ASSOCIATED VOCABULARY

Camouflage
Carnivore
Cold-BloodedEndangered
Food Chain/Web
HerbivoreInvertebrate
OmnivoreVertebrate
Warm-Blooded

PRE-VISIT ACTIVITIES

As a class, review vocabulary and identify some different types of animals defined by shared characteristics. Share examples of scenes from movies or stories about animals which students believe may be untrue or exaggerated and discuss why they believe these scenes are inaccurate.

AT THE MUSEUM

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.