

KS1 - Year 1

Curriculum Links for Educational Talks



Educational Talks

We currently offer the following talks to children in KS1:

African Animals

Classification

Habitats and Adaptations

Life Cycles

Predators and Prey

Rainforests

Reptiles

World of Plants

During the talk the keeper will take you round to visit three or four different animals so that the children get to see a variety of species. This allows for a discussion of similarities and differences between the animals. The children will have the opportunity to ask and answer questions relating to the animals that they can see.



Talk details:

Talks generally last around 30 minutes and will take place out in the Park in all weathers; please ensure that your pupils wear suitable clothes for the conditions. They are generally delivered by the keepers and may vary slightly between different staff members.

Unfortunately, we cannot guarantee which animals you will see during your talk, but you will get to learn more about three or four different species during your talk as the keeper takes you to visit their enclosures.

Please note: our school talks do not involve any hands-on contact with the animals.

African Animals

A great opportunity to find out more about the animals in the Park that are native to Africa. During the talk you will visit a variety of species and discuss the similarities and differences between them. The keeper will explain what they eat, what their natural habitat would look like and what their typical behaviour is. We will touch on features of predators and adaptations that the animal might have to help them survive in their habitat in Africa.

Classification

Classification is the grouping of plants and animals so that we can identify them quickly. The animal kingdom is usually split into two main groups – those with and those without backbones (vertebrates and invertebrates). This talk will mainly focus on the five main vertebrate groups: fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals. We will visit three or four animals and talk about the group they belong to, any adaptations of that animal and discuss what makes each group unique.



Habitats and Adaptations

Over a long period of time animals have developed special features that help them to survive in their environment, an **adaptation**. In our Habitats and Adaptations talk we will visit some animals from different habitats and take a look at the adaptations they have that help them to survive there. The animals that you see during your talk will vary depending on the keeper who delivers the talk and the section they work on, however we aim to include animals that come from a variety of habitats such as grasslands, rainforests, deserts or rivers.

Life Cycles

All animals are born, grow, reproduce, and eventually die which we call a **life cycle**. This talk explores a selection of animals and looks at how they grow, develop and how we care for them. During the talk you will take a look at some of our animals that perhaps have a more unusual life cycle as well as those that follow a more typical life cycle similar to humans.

Predators and Prey

In this talk, we will be looking at different predators and prey and look at the adaptations they have that help them to survive in their environments. We will discuss differences in senses, teeth, feeding techniques, bones, digestive systems, and behaviour that assist in life as the hunter or the hunted. We will touch upon food chains and the importance of predators and prey living together in one habitat.

Rainforests

Rainforests are found throughout the world with 70% of all known plant species and 50% of all known animal species living in the these forests. However, the



rainforests only cover 5% of the land surface of the planet. The warm and moist climate mean they are an easy environment for plants and animals to live in. During the talk we will look at a variety of animals that would live in the rainforests and how they survive there. We will talk about the importance of the rainforests and how they support the animals and plants that live in them.

Reptiles

This talk will look at the different types of reptiles including; snakes, lizards, caiman, and tortoises. The keepers will discuss the similarities and differences between varying reptile species and with each reptile we will look at what they eat, where they live and what they need in order to survive. This talk will also touch on life cycles and the changes some reptiles go through as they grow. Finally, we may look at ways that they may protect themselves through camouflage, colouration and even venom!

World of Plants

There are estimated to be over 400,000 species of plants worldwide which form the basis for life on Earth. Our World of Plants talk takes a look at just some of the ways that plants provide life, through flowers, food, oxygen and the regulation of the water cycle. Everything we eat comes directly or indirectly from plants. Throughout human history, approximately 7,000 different plant species have been used as food by people in the forms of fruit, grains and vegetables. In this talk, we examine some of the food plants that we can grow here at the Park and we may also discuss plants that can be used for other uses such as shelter, fuel, latex, clothing and pigments. The talk will also discuss some of the more unusual plants at the Park from carnivorous plants through to plants that were alive when the dinosaurs roamed the Earth!



Resources

If you decide to book a talk for your educational visit, we have created some free digital resources that will be made available to you ahead of the visit. These resources are comprised of a pre-visit and post-visit session guide, which includes general information and questions about the animals we have here at the Park that link to the talk you have booked with us, as well as some activity ideas or printable pages that the children can do with an adult or independently.

Year 1 learning outcomes

Below are the National Curriculum requirements for Year 1 and the educational talks we offer that are relevant to those outcomes.

Animals, including humans

Statutory requirements – Pupils should be taught to:

- identify and name a variety of common animals including fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals ([Habitats and Adaptations](#), [Life Cycles](#), [Predators and Prey](#), [Rainforests](#))
- identify and name a variety of common animals that are carnivores, herbivores and omnivores ([African Animals](#), [Habitats and Adaptations](#), [Predators and Prey](#), [Rainforests](#))
- describe and compare the structure of a variety of common animals (fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals, including pets) ([Habitats and Adaptations](#), [Life Cycles](#), [Predators and Prey](#), [Reptiles](#))



Non-Statutory guidance –

Pupils should use the local environment throughout the year to explore and answer questions about animals in their habitat. They should understand how to take care of animals taken from their local environment and the need to return them safely after study. Pupils should become familiar with the common names of some fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals, including those that are kept as pets. Pupils should have plenty of opportunities to learn the names of the main body parts (including head, neck, arms, elbows, legs, knees, face, ears, eyes, hair, mouth, teeth) through games, actions, songs and rhymes. Pupils might work scientifically by: using their observations to compare and contrast animals at first hand or through videos and photographs, describing how they identify and group them; grouping animals according to what they eat; and using their senses to compare different textures, sounds and smells.

Plants

Statutory requirements - Pupils should be taught to:

- identify and name a variety of common wild and garden plants, including deciduous and evergreen trees ([Rainforests](#), [World of Plants](#))
- identify and describe the basic structure of a variety of common flowering plants, including trees. ([World of Plants](#))

Non-Statutory guidance –

Pupils should use the local environment throughout the year to explore and answer questions about plants growing in their habitat. Where possible, they should observe the growth of flowers and vegetables that they have planted. They should become familiar with common names of flowers, examples of deciduous and evergreen trees, and plant structures (including leaves, flowers (blossom), petals, fruit, roots, bulb, seed, trunk, branches, stem).



Pupils might work scientifically by: observing closely, perhaps using magnifying glasses, and comparing and contrasting familiar plants; describing how they were able to identify and group them, and drawing diagrams showing the parts of different plants including trees. Pupils might keep records of how plants have changed over time, for example the leaves falling off trees and buds opening; and compare and contrast what they have found out about different plants.

