

KEY STAGE 2 YEAR 3



EDUCATIONAL TALKS INFORMATION

Educational Talks

We currently offer the following talks to pupils in KS2:

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.

The group size for talks will be limited to 20 children, so you may be given separate times for the same talk if your group is larger than 20 children. This is to ensure that all the children taking part get the most out of the session.

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.



Talk Details

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 this is called a life cycle. This talk explores a selection of animals and looks at how they grow and 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 these forests. However, the rainforests only cover 5% of the land surface of the planet. The warm and moist climate means 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 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 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 3 learning outcomes

Below are the National Curriculum requirements for Year 3 and the educational talks we offer that are relevant to those outcomes.

Animals, including humans

Statutory requirements

Pupils should be taught to:

- identify that animals, including humans, need the right types and amount of nutrition, and that they cannot make their own food; they get nutrition from what they eat. ([African Animals](#), [Predators and Prey](#), [Reptiles](#))
- identify that humans and some other animals have skeletons and muscles for support, protection and movement. ([Classification](#), [Habitats and Adaptations](#), [Predators and Prey](#), [Reptiles](#))

Non-Statutory guidance

Pupils should continue to learn about the importance of nutrition and should be introduced to the main body parts associated with the skeleton and muscles, finding out how different parts of the body have special functions.

Pupils might work scientifically by: identifying and grouping animals with and without skeletons and observing and comparing their movement; exploring ideas about what would happen if humans did not have skeletons. They might compare and contrast the diets of different animals (including their pets) and decide ways of grouping them according to what they eat. They might research different food groups and how they keep us healthy and design meals based on what they find out.



Plants

Statutory requirements

Pupils should be taught to:

- identify and describe the functions of different parts of flowering plants: roots, stem/trunk, leaves and flowers. (World of Plants)
- explore the requirements of plants for life and growth (air, light, water, nutrients from soil, and room to grow) and how they vary from plant to plant. (World of Plants)
- investigate the way in which water is transported within plants. (World of Plants)
- explore the part that flowers play in the life cycle of flowering plants, including pollination, seed formation and seed dispersal. (World of Plants)

Non-Statutory guidance

Pupils should be introduced to the relationship between structure and function: the idea that every part has a job to do. They should explore questions that focus on the role of the roots and stem in nutrition and support, leaves for nutrition and flowers for reproduction.

Note: Pupils can be introduced to the idea that plants can make their own food, but at this stage they do not need to understand how this happens.

Pupils might work scientifically by: comparing the effect of different factors on plant growth, for example, the amount of light, and the amount of fertiliser; discovering how seeds are formed by observing the different stages of plant life cycles over a period of time; looking for patterns in the structure of fruits that relate to how the seeds are dispersed. They might observe how water is transported in plants, for example, by putting cut, white carnations into coloured water and observing how water travels up the stem to the flowers.

