

KEY STAGE 2 YEAR 5



EDUCATIONAL TALKS INFORMATION

Educational Talks

We currently offer the following talks to pupils in KS2:

African Animals

Classification

Evolution

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.

Evolution

Evolution is where species of all living things have changed and adapted over time. Many theories have been developed for how evolution occurs but the most widely accepted theory is Darwin's Theory of Evolution by Natural Selection. This is where individuals in a species show a wide range of genetic variation. Some of the individuals will therefore be better suited to the environment than others and so will be more successful in passing on their genes. This causes a gradual and continuous change in a species so that it evolves to perfectly adapt to its environment. In this talk we look at some different animals we have here at the Park and how they have evolved to be perfectly adapted to their environment. We will look at a group of animals and discuss where different species diverged and how this happened, whether it be by specialised diets, habitats or behaviours.



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 5 learning outcomes

Below are the National Curriculum requirements for Year 5 and the educational talks we offer that are relevant to those outcomes.

Living things and their habitats

Statutory requirements

Pupils should be taught to:

- describe the differences in the life cycles of a mammal, an amphibian, an insect and a bird. (Classification, Life Cycles)
- describe the life process of reproduction in some plants and animals. (Life Cycles, World of Plants)

Non-Statutory guidance

Pupils should study and raise questions about their local environment throughout the year. They should observe life-cycle changes in a variety of living things, for example, plants in the vegetable garden or flower border, and animals in the local environment. They should find out about the work of naturalists and animal behaviourists, for example, David Attenborough and Jane Goodall.

Pupils should find out about different types of reproduction, including sexual and asexual reproduction in plants, and sexual reproduction in animals.

Pupils might work scientifically by: observing and comparing the life cycles of plants and animals in their local environment with other plants and animals around the world (in the rainforest, in the oceans, in desert areas and in prehistoric times), asking pertinent questions and suggesting reasons for similarities and differences. They might try to grow new plants from different parts of the parent plant, for example, seeds, stem and root cuttings, tubers, and bulbs. They might observe changes in an animal over a period of time (for example, by hatching and rearing chicks), comparing how different animals reproduce and grow.

