KEY STAGE 3 & 4

EDUCATIONAL TALKS INFORMATION

Educational Talks:

We currently offer the following talks and workshops to pupils in Year 7 to Year 11:

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

Keeper Corner Duration: 15 minutes

For All Year Groups

This talk will take place out in the Park with one of our keepers at one of the animal enclosures. The keeper will tell the children about their daily jobs and their role as a keeper here at Cotswold Wildlife Park, then the children will have the opportunity to ask questions and find out more about the keeper's job and the animals they care for. The keeper will talk about the animal they are looking at in more detail, including key adaptations and personal characteristics.

The workshops detailed below are aimed more at specific year groups within KS3 and KS4. Please read the descriptions carefully to ensure that you select a workshop suitable for your year group when submitting your booking form.

Ecosystems & Adaptations

Duration: 30 minutes

For Year 7 to Year 11

This workshop session will take place in one of our classrooms with a member of the Education team. We will briefly visit the theory of evolution and identify some important adaptations animals have to survive in their varied ecosystems. We will then explore how changes in the environment can affect species. Through videos and pictures and using wild Bactrian camels as an example we will look at the amazing adaptations this species has for survival in one of the harshest environments. Students will identify how camels are interdependent on their environment for survival and how the changes in the environment are affecting the population.

Conservation

Duration: 30 minutes

For Year 10 and Year 11

This workshop session will take place in one of our classrooms with a member of the Education team. In this introduction to conservation, we will highlight the work of the park to conserve endangered lemur species. Through the use of video footage and pictures we will show students how researchers monitor populations of lemurs in Madagascar. We will then look at the threats to lemurs and the methods used by conservationists in Madagascar to promote lemur species and protect them.

Curriculum links:

Curriculum Covered by Session	Ecosystems & Adaptations	Conservation
KS3 – Biology: Genetics and evolution Inheritance, chromosomes, DNA and genes • changes in the environment may leave individuals within a species, and some entire species, less well adapted to compete successfully and reproduce, which in turn may lead to extinction • the importance of maintaining biodiversity and the use of gene banks to preserve hereditary material.	✓	
KS3 – Biology: Interactions and interdependencies Relationships in an ecosystem • how organisms affect, and are affected by, their environment, including the accumulation of toxic materials.	✓	
KS4 – *Biology: Evolution, inheritance and variation* • evolution occurs by the process of natural selection and accounts both for biodiversity and how organisms are all related to varying degrees.	✓	
KS4 – Biology: Ecosystems • living organisms are interdependent and show adaptations to their environment	✓	
KS4 – Biology: Ecosystems • the importance of biodiversity • methods of identifying species and measuring distribution, frequency and abundance of species within a habitat • positive and negative human interactions with ecosystems.		✓