



2022-23 In-Class Programs

All classroom programs are offered November through April unless otherwise noted.

PreK - Snakes Alive (45 minutes) - We often fear what we don't understand. Introduce your students to a live snake and learn what makes snakes special.

PreK - Super Spiders (45 minutes) - Learn the body parts of spiders, basic web designs, how they catch food, and why they are important.

PreK & K - Animals Prepare for Winter (45 minutes; Nov.-Jan.) - Learn what animals are doing to prepare for the cold winter months. K-LS1-1, K-ESS3-1

PreK & K - Birds of a Feather (45 minutes) - Discover how birds use their special adaptations. K-LS1-1, K-ESS2-2, K-ESS3-1

New K- From Egg to Animal (45 minutes) - Discover the wide variety of animals that hatch out of eggs. K-LS1-1

K- Furrries (45 minutes) - Explore what makes a mammal unique and what we can learn from these "furrries". K-LS1-1

K & 1st grade - Happening Herps (45 minutes/1 hour) - Learn the difference between reptiles and amphibians. Live animals are a part of this hands-on program. K-LS1-1, 1-LS3-1, 1-LS1-2

1st grade - Ants Ants Ants (1 hour) - Investigate insects by studying ants. The program includes a demonstration of various ant jobs, general insect parts, and more. 1-LS3-1, 1-LS1-2

1st grade - My Woods (1 hour) - Explore a special habitat by using your senses. Learn why the outdoors is an important place for animals and people. (observations and evidence, patterns)

New 1st grade – Light and Sound (1 hour) - Animals, including humans, use light to see and vibrations to hear. By conducting experiments, students will discover why light is important for sight and how vibrations help us and animals hear. 1-PS4-2, 1-PS4-1, 1-PS4-4

1st & 2nd grade - Who Goes There? (1 hour) - Be an animal detective! Learn to read the many signs left behind by animals to solve the mystery of "Who Goes There?" (patterns, cause and effect, observations and evidence)

2nd grade - Rainforest Links (1 hour) - Explore the tropical rainforests of the world. Learn about their form and function through activities and discussion. Help link rainforest creatures to each other and discover how we are linked as well. 2-LS4-1

2nd grade - Animal Adaptations (1 hour) - Students will get their hands on unique animal components and explore adaptations through inquiry-based team research. 2-LS4-1

2nd grade - Dr. Dirt (1 hour) - Dr. Dirt cooks up the recipe for Iowa's million-dollar soils, and students get their hands dirty investigating soil properties. Find out why our soil is eroding and how we can save it! 2-PS1-1, 2-PS1-2, 2-ESS1-1, 2-ESS2-1

2nd grade - Planting the Seeds (1 hour) - Lots of hands-on exploring while learning how seeds move and what a seed needs to grow. 2-LS2-1, 2-LS2-2

2nd & 3rd grade - EXTREME Reptiles (1.5 hours) - Through an interactive game, learn what strategies reptiles use to help the survival of their offspring. Students will develop a model to discover many unique adaptations reptiles use to survive in their habitats. 2-LS4-1, 3-LS4-3

3rd grade - Raptors (1 hour) - Learn about raptors and their special adaptations that allow them to function and survive. 3-LS4-3

3rd grade - Wonders of Weather (1.25 hours) - Learn the components of weather through hands-on learning stations. 3-ESS2-1

3rd & 4th grade - Ancient Animals (1 hour) - Discover what ancient animals lived in Iowa, extinction theories for Ice Age mammals, and what scientists learn from fossils. Students will make a fossil to keep. 3-LS4-1, 4-ESS1-1

3rd & 4th grade - Fabulous Fossils (1.25 hours) - What was Iowa like 400 million years ago? This program explores Iowa's geologic history and how fossils are made. 3-LS4-1, 4-ESS1-1

3rd & 4th grade - Shocking Developments (1.25 hours; Nov.-March) - It's a shock where electricity can be found in nature! Learn all about electricity and do some amazing hands-on experiments. 3PS2-3, 4-PS3-2, 4-PS3-4

3rd-7th grade - The Wonderful World of Wetlands (1 hour) - Explore the wonderful world of wetlands and the importance of these vibrant ecosystems and the biodiversity they support! Students are transported to a wetland through audio and visual means, and the interactive games of Habitat Hopscotch and Wetlands BINGO. 3-LS4-3, 3-LS4-4, 4-ESS3-2, 5-ESS3-1, MS-LS2-1, MS-LS2-4

4th grade - Skins and Skulls (1 hour) - Investigate who eats what based on the evidence of teeth and skulls. Student teams match structure to function to reveal the identities of eight Iowa mammals in this hands-on program. 4-LS1-1
(Engaging in argument from evidence)

4th grade - Dem Bones (1 hour) - Through games and puzzles learn about the bones and skeletal systems of different vertebrates. Explore the unique similarities among them all. 4-LS1-1

4th grade - The Garbologist (1 hour) - This interactive and wacky program introduces students to the garbage cycle. Learn what we throw away, how it fuels energy production, and what we can do to reduce garbage. 4-ESS3-1

4th grade - Team Building (1 hour; August) - Team building is a fun, interactive way to get to know your class as a whole and as individuals. This program will challenge your students to think as a group and communicate with one another as a team. Because this program is meant to prepare you and your class for the year to come, it is offered during the first few weeks of school. 21.3-5.ES.1-4

This activity involves less than 3 feet physical distancing between students.

4th & 5th grade - Traveling Trunk (1.5 hours) - Meet a woman from the past and learn about her move west and life on the prairie in the 1860s. SS.4.18, SS.4.19, SS.4.22, SS.4.23, SS.5.21, SS.5.22

4th & 6th grade - Rock It (1 hour) - Explore the three processes that form rocks; it's a real treat! 4-ESS1-1, MS-ESS2-1

4th & 6th grade - Digestion Discoveries (1 hour) - We will compare how monogastric, ruminant, avian, and hind-gut fermenters process their food. 4-LS1-1, MS-LS1-3

4th & 6th grade - Circulation Spectacular (1 hour) - Explore the circulatory systems of various animals. Dissected fish and mammal hearts will be brought into the classroom. If you want the full "hands-on" experience, please provide examination gloves for your students. 4-LS1-1, MS-LS1-3

4th-8th grade - We All Live in A Watershed (1 hour) - Dive into the water cycle, watersheds, and water quality with this highly interactive program. Students each receive a "puzzle piece" of land and are then given free rein to be creative and build whatever they'd like. How will the shared water resources be impacted by everyone's choices? 4-ESS3-2, 5-ESS2-1, 5-ESS3-1, MS-ESS3-3

New 5th grade – Invasive Species (1.25 hour) - Participants learn about the difference between invasive and native species. It also informs students about the harmful impacts invasive species have on their ecosystems. 5-LS2-1; specifically, LS2-A Interdependent relationships in ecosystems 3-5-ETS1-1. Engineering Design

5th-8th grade - Biodiversity Bonanza (1 hour) - Students will learn about the importance of biodiversity, niches within ecosystems, trophic levels (who's eating who!), and more. 5-LS2-1, MS-LS2-3, MS-LS2-4, MS-LS2-5

5th & 8th grade - Endangered Species (1.25 hours) - Understand why animals become endangered and discover ways to help them. 5-ESS3-1, MS-ESS3-3

5th & 8th grade - Enviroscope (1 hour) - Hands-on learning about water pollution connects what we do on land to what happens in our rivers, lakes, and oceans. 5-ESS2-1, 5-ESS3-1, MS-ESS3-3