

Discovery Learning Sessions

NATIONAL
ZOO
& AQUARIUM
CANBERRA

It is Alive?

Living & Non-Living - Early Stage & Stage 1

Explore the characteristics, needs and uses of living things by inquiring about their noticeable features of living things. Students will meet one of our friendly reptiles and compare their needs with other animals in the zoo.

Learning Outcome

ACSSU002 - explores the basic needs of living things such as food and water.

ACSSU017 - highlights that living things have a variety of external features.

Where the Wild Things Live

Habitats – Stage 1

Explore what makes a habitat a home. Students learn how the needs of an animal are fulfilled by their habitat and how external factors such as deforestation can affect both animal and habitat.

Learning Outcomes

ACSSU211 - identifies that living things live in different places where their needs are met.

All in the Family

Life Cycles - Stage 1 & 2

An introduction to different animal family structures and the variety of ways animals begin their life (e.g. egg layers, marsupials, live birth, etc.). Students will meet a variety of animals that raise their young in different ways. For those in stage 2, consolidate knowledge of animal reproductive methods while discussing the dangers many animals face as they grow up.

Learning Outcomes

Stage 1:

ACSSU030 - explores how living things grow, change and have offspring that are similar to themselves.

Stage 2:

ACSSU072 - highlights that living things have life cycles.

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Feathers, Fur & Scales

Classification - Stage 2 & 4

Compare and contrast various species to learn how scientists use defining features to classify living things into groups. Students meet a bird, reptile & mammal to experience the differences in classification firsthand (groups can visit the aquarium independently to complete the list with fish & amphibians).

Learning Outcomes

Stage 2:

ACSSU044 - highlights that living things can be grouped on the basis of observable features and can be distinguished from non-living things.

Stage 4:

ACSSU111 - explores how classification helps organise a diverse group of organisms.

All Together Now

Ecosystems - Stage 2, 5 & 6

Explore how all life is connected through various ecosystems, food chains and natural cycles. Visit a variety of zoo animals that are interconnected in unique and unexpected ways!

Learning Outcomes

Stage 2:

ACSSU073 – acknowledge that living things depend on each other and the environment to survive.

Stage 5:

ACSSU175 – highlights that multi-cellular organisms rely on coordinated and interdependent internal systems to respond to changes to their environment.

ACSSU176 – establishes that ecosystems consist of communities of interdependent organisms and abiotic components of the environment, matter and energy that flow through those systems.

Stage 6:

We understand that as students get older, the learning requirements for each cohort changes. Our Education Team will work with you to develop an engaging session on any topic or curriculum outcome. Email bookings@nationalzoo.com.au to see what we can create.

Learning Sessions

Where have all the Bettongs gone?

Endangered Species - Stage 3

An in-depth examination of the variety of ways human actions can impact animals in the wild. Issues from habitat destruction, feral animals and climate change are discussed as well as actions students can take at home to help.

Why is the Giraffe's Neck so Long?

Adaptations - Stage 3 & 6

Learn why is the giraffe's neck so long or why does the tiger have stripes? From there students will visit various animals to find out about their different adaptations and how they help with survival.

Learning Outcomes

Stage 3:

ACSSU043 – identifies that living things have structural features and adaptations that help them to survive in their environment.

Stage 6:

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Oh, How Things Change...

Evolution - Stage 5 & 6

Investigate the changes caused by natural selection within a particular animal population. Students will consider for the evidence for evolution, by comparing chemical and anatomical similarities, and the geographical distribution of different species.

Learning Outcomes

Stage 5:

ACSSU185 – explains that the theory of evolution, by natural selection, explains the diversity of living things and is supported by range of scientific evidence.

ACSSU184 – highlights that the transmission of heritable characteristics from one generation to the next involves DNA and genes.

Stage 6:

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