Observing animals
Year 3

This Outreach Education Program for schools is made possible by the partnership between the South Australian Museum and the Department of Education and Children's Services. Outreach Education is a team of seconded teachers who are based in public institutions.

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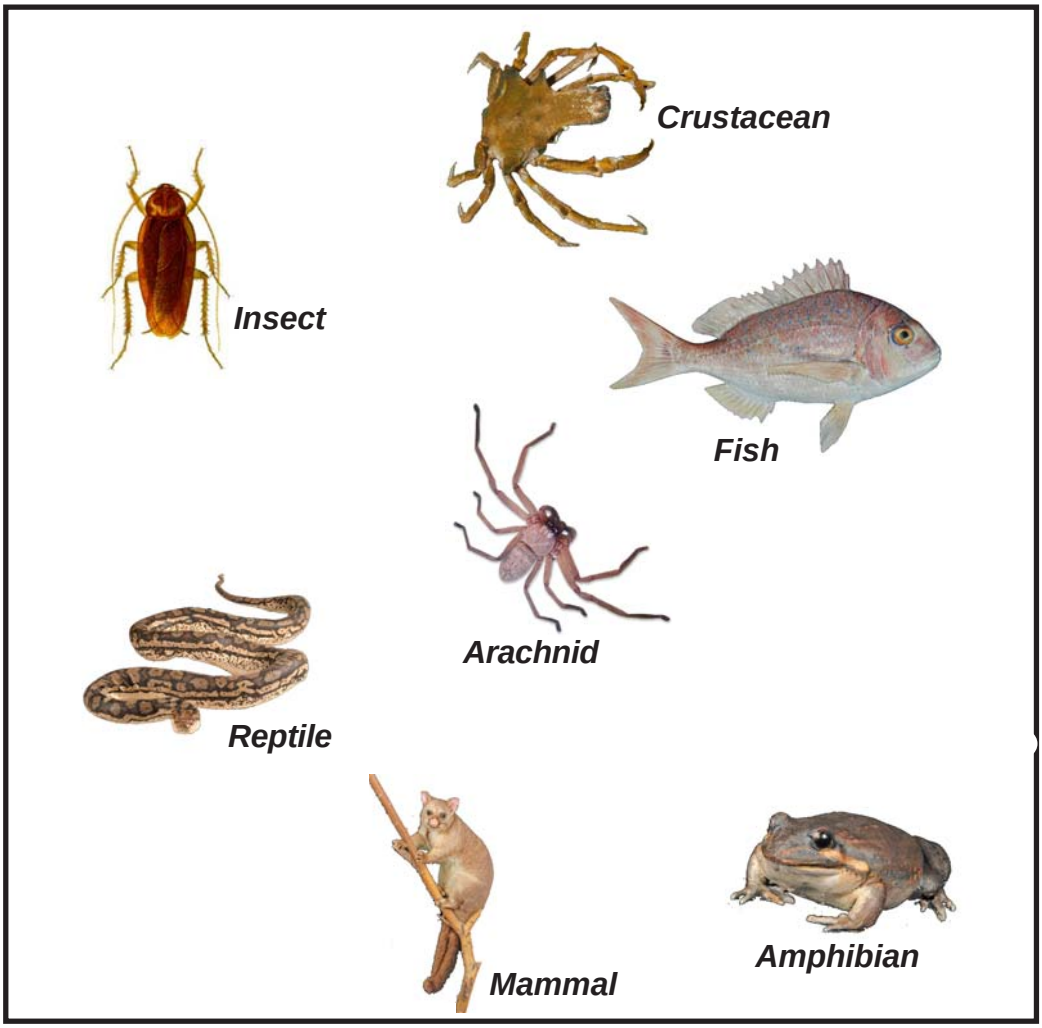


Government of South Australia
Department of Education and Children's Services

Observing Animals

Teacher notes

This program is designed for use in the South Australian Biodiversity Gallery.

Before students attempt any worksheets it is important that they are given an opportunity to look around the gallery and make their own discoveries. The gallery is extensive and varied. Stationing a responsible adult at each end will allow students to safely explore the whole gallery. Most classes can profitably spend at least half an hour exploring.

After looking around, students can be given copies of the activity sheets in this document. The sheets focus on some major animal groups; mammals, reptiles, spiders, insects, fish, birds, amphibians and crustaceans.

Links to the Australian Science Curriculum – Year 3

Scientific Understandings

This program is suited to the Engage or Explore phase of a unit of work focussing on the idea that **living things can be grouped on the basis of observable features** and that **living things have features in common**.

A visit to the South Australian Biodiversity Gallery could also be used as part of the Elaboration phase of such a unit by asking students to complete tasks based on their classroom investigations.

Pre-visit research

The program will be most effective if students already have a working knowledge of the terms; mammals, reptiles, spiders, insects, fish, birds, amphibians and crustaceans. You might wish to add some others to extend the program — molluscs, plants, sponges and monotremes are possibilities.

TfEL

Foster deep understanding.
Apply learning in authentic contexts.
Communicate learning in multiple modes.

Animals in the arid display (Red walls)

Reptiles

Reptiles are covered in scales and breathe air.
Crocodiles, turtles, snakes and lizards are all reptiles.

Reptile

Look in the desert (red) displays.

Can you find these reptiles?
Tick the box when you find the reptile.

This reptile is a snake looking after her eggs. ☐

This reptile is a Thorny Devil lizard with a very, very bumpy skin. ☐

This reptile is a legless lizard in a prickly bush. ☐

This reptile has a hard shell and lives in water. ☐

This reptile is a dragon lizard climbing a tree branch. ☐

This reptile is a Gecko with big eyes and a tiny knob on its tail. ☐

This reptile is a dragon lizard on a skull. ☐

This reptile is eating another reptile. ☐

Spiders

Spiders have eight legs and fangs that inject venom.
Most spiders have eight eyes.

Look in the display case with the skulls.

Find the Whistling Spider in its burrow.

How big is it?

Insects

Insects have six legs.

Find the insects in the display case with the skulls.

How many grasshoppers? ____ How many ants? ____ How many wasps? ____

Animals in the temperate display (Green walls)

Amphibians


Frog

Adult amphibians, such as frogs and toads, can breathe air.
But when they were young, they breathed water.
Tadpoles are baby frogs and they breathe water.


Tadpole

Look in the Wetland display case.
Use the clues below to find the frogs.
Write the frog's names next to each clue.
(The computer might help you .)

Which amphibian sounds like a banjo when it calls?
_____

Which amphibian lays its eggs in a raft of bubbles?_____

Which amphibian is climbing a tree? _____

Insects


Ant

Insects are animals with six legs.

Look in the drawers in the kitchen.

They are full of different kinds of insects.
There are ants, bees and many other types of insects.
Write down the other kinds of insects you see in the drawers.
You might not know all the types, so just write down the names of those you know.

ants bees	

Animals in the beach display (Brown walls)

Mammals

Mammals have hair and breathe air.
They are warm blooded.

Find two mammals near the beach and fill in the circles below.

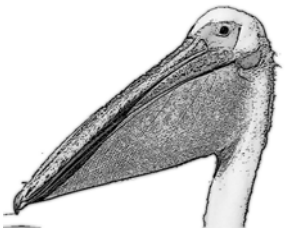
Things they both have.

Things that are differrent..

Birds

Birds have feathers and beaks.
You can sometimes tell what a bird eats by looking at its beak.

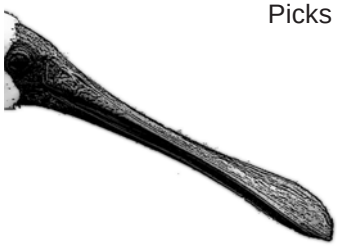
Look for birds with beaks like these and write their names next to them.
Use the computers to find their names.



_____
Eats fish

_____
Picks up small animals

_____
Eats meat



_____
Eats fish, shrimps and insects.

_____
Eats plants, seeds and insects

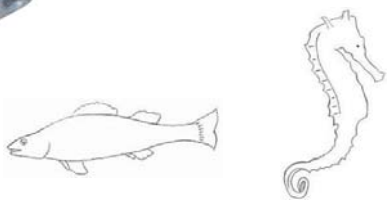
Animals in the marine display (Blue walls)

Fish

Fish breathe water and usually have fins and scales.

Look at the fish

Find a fish that matches the word in the box below and draw its outline.



A fast fish	A fish that is good at hiding
A fish that eats other fish	A fish that lives in seaweed

Crustaceans

Crustaceans have hard jointed legs.
Crabs, crayfish and shrimp are all crustaceans.

Find the Rocky Reef.
There are many crustaceans hiding on the reef and on the sea floor.
How many can you find in three minutes?
There are at least five on the rocky reef itself and seven on the sea floor next to the reef.
Some are tiny.

We found _____ on the sea floor and _____ on the rocky reef in three minutes.