

## **Critters Close-Up**

*Welcome to the natural world of Fontenelle Forest and Neale Woods Nature Centers! Below is a guide to pre and post field trip activities that you can do with your students either indoors or on your school grounds. These activities will greatly enhance your students' field trip experience and are also a lot of fun!*

*We look forward to your students' arrival and are excited to provide them with a fun and educational experience. If you have any questions, please call us at 731-3140.*

**Suggested Grade Level(s):** Pre-K – 1st

**Program Objectives:**

- Participants will meet and learn about at least 3-4 captive animals.
- Students will be given the opportunity to touch these animals.

### **Pre- and Post-Trip Activity Suggestions**

#### **Animal Picture Search**

**Suggested Timing:** Pre-Trip

**Time:** 30 minutes

**Location:** Indoors and/or Outdoors

**Materials:** pictures of animals cut out from magazines or clip-art, tape

**Procedure:** Place pictures of animals around the classroom or schoolyard and let students see how many they can find. The pictures can be collected when found or left up for other class members to find. This is great practice for using observation skills in the forest!

#### **Schoolyard Animal Map**

**Materials:** large piece of paper (poster size), markers or crayons

**Suggested Timing:** Pre-Trip or Post-Trip, on-going

**Time:** Initially 30 minutes, then on-going

**Location:** Indoors

**Materials:** Large piece of paper, crayons/markers, magazine pictures of animals (*optional*)

**Procedure:** As a class, make a generalized map of the schoolyard or outdoor play area. Put the map on a wall close to a window. Record animal sightings within this area by drawing the animals, or using magazine pictures of the animals, on the corresponding map location. Try to notice if there is any difference in which animals are seen in during each month (you can make a new map for each season) or if certain types of animals are seen more often in certain parts of the yard.

#### **Toilet Paper Roll Binoculars**

**Suggested Timing:** Pre-Trip or Post-Trip

**Time:** 30 minutes

**Location:** Indoors

**Materials:** two empty toilet paper rolls per student, tape or stapler, string, hole punch, and crayons

**Procedure:** Tape two rolls together into binocular shape. Rolls can be colored or decorated before being taped together. (Optional: punch holes in outside edges of binocular and run string through so that binoculars can be worn around neck.) This is great for practicing observational skills and focusing on small areas.

### **Hole Hunt**

**Suggested Timing:** Post-Trip

**Time:** 30 minutes

**Location:** Outdoors

**Materials:** paper, hole punch

**Procedure:** Discuss what kinds of animals live in holes and then go outside for a hole hunt. Give each child a scrap of paper and have them go find holes. Once they have found one they return to you and you make a hole in their paper with a hole puncher. Only one hole at a time!

### **Who Am I?**

**Suggested Timing:** Post-Trip

**Time:** 30 minutes

**Location:** Indoors

**Materials:** pictures of various animals, tape

**Procedure:** Divide students into groups and have them sit in circles. Have them tape a picture of an animal (can be an animal they have seen) onto each other's backs. One at a time, have students stand in the center of their groups. The other students give hints about the animal and the center child tries to guess what it is. Once the animal has been identified, another child takes a turn. You may need to focus the hints (size, color, coat, way of moving, etc.)

### **Resources**

Acorn Naturalists: Resources for the Trail and Classroom. To order this educational resource catalogue for environmental and science education call 1-800-422-8886. To look at these resources on-line go to <http://www.acornnaturalists.com>.

Alden, Peter. Peterson First Guide to Mammals. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1998.

Conant, Roger, Robert C. Stebbins, and Joseph T. Collins. Peterson First Guide to Reptiles and Amphibians. Ed. Roger Tory. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1999.

Lingelback, Jenepher, ed. Hands-On Nature Activities. Woodstock, Vermont: Vermont Institute of Natural Science, 1986.

Sheehan, Kathryn, and Mary Waidner. Earth Child: Games, Stories, Activities, Experiments and Ideas About Living Lightly on Planet Earth. 1991. Tulsa: Council Oak Books, 1994.

### **Selected Stories**

Barrett, Judi. Animals Should Definitely Not Wear Clothing. New York: Atheneum, 1970.

Cannon, Janell. Stellaluna. San Diego: Harcourt Brace & Company, 1993.

---. Verdi. San Diego: Harcourt Brace & Company, 1997.  
Mazer, Anne. The Salamander Room. New York: Knopf, 1991.

Williams, Margery. The Velveteen Rabbit. New York: Knopf, 1985.

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