

Suntrap animals – classification & food chains – half day option

In this classroom-based activity, children will meet and handle a range of Suntrap's vertebrate and invertebrate animals, such as fire salamander, corn snake, stick insect, rabbit, giant African snail, chicken and hissing cockroach.

They will use a key to identify and classify each animal to help them to understand why that animal is in a particular group and how they fit into a food chain.

Learning objectives

- to observe characteristics of an animal in order to group them
- to explore the reasons why an animal is in a particular group
- to understand how the animals fit into different food chains
- to understand how Suntrap staff create a suitable habitat for these animals that is similar to their natural environments



Some suggestions for visit preparation

1. Introduce important vocabulary; *habitat, predator, prey, producer, consumer, herbivore, carnivore, omnivore, invertebrate, vertebrate*.
2. Use simple keys to sort pictures of living things.

Follow on suggestions

1. Create an advert to persuade other Suntrap visitors to hold the animals.
2. Find out about animals living in a different habitat, e.g. rainforest or ocean and make a simple key to classify them.

National curriculum links

Y4 Science

Living things and their habitats

- recognise that living things can be grouped in a variety of ways
- explore and use classification keys to help group, identify and name a variety of living things in their local and wider environment
- recognise that environments can change and that this can sometimes pose dangers to living things

Animals, including humans

- construct and interpret a variety of food chains, identifying producers, predators and prey



EVENT SPECIFIC RISK ASSESSMENT

Visit details: Animal classification and food chains

Carried out by: Suntrap Centre

Date: Dec 2017

Issue	How to manage it
Understanding/behaviour	Class teacher to advise Suntrap staff of any children who may need extra support out in the classroom or forest to help them to follow instructions. School to ensure that there is appropriate adult: children ratios as required.
Medical conditions	Suntrap staff to check that school staff brings medication out into the forest. All adults to be made aware of any medical conditions. Suntrap staff will carry a first aid kit.
Choking/Poisoning	No eating outside unless directly instructed by Suntrap staff.
Soil borne disease	Children instructed not to put fingers in mouth during/after activities which include handling plants, soil and sticks. Hands should be washed with warm soapy water before eating lunch/snack.
Allergies/animal borne diseases.	Suntrap staff to be made aware of any allergies i.e. feathers/fur prior to handling. Hands should be washed with warm soapy water before eating any food. Tables will be cleaned with disinfectant before lunch/snack.
Injury from animals	Children should be supervised at all times when handling animals.