ANIMAL HOMES

Find out what animals need from their environment in order to survive! See if you can match animals with the types of homes they need. Meet an ornate box turtle up-close and learn about their day-to-day life to make new connections.

This program addresses the following NGSS standards for Kindergarten:
- K-LS1-1. Use observations to describe patterns of what plants and animals (including humans) need to survive.
- K-ESS3-1. Use a model to represent the relationship between the needs of different plants or animals (including humans) and the places they live.

ANIMALS AND THEIR PARENTS

Growing up is something we all do, whether we’re a frog, a fox, or a sunflower. Meet a Virginia opossum and learn more about how young animals (and plants) grow and develop into something that looks a lot like their parents!

This program addresses the following NGSS standards for 1st Grade:
- 1-LS3-1. Make observations to construct an evidence-based account that young plants and animals are like, but not exactly like, their parents.

KANSAS HABITATS

Our state has a diverse range of environments, from prairies to woodlands to wetlands and streams. Find out what types of animals call these habitats home, and how diverse places allows for diverse animals! You’ll also meet an animal built for the most extreme environments in Kansas: a kangaroo rat!

This program addresses the following NGSS standards for 2nd Grade:
- 2-LS4-1. Make observations of plants and animals to compare the diversity of life in different habitats.

LIFE CYCLES

Living things go through many phases in their unique journey from birth to adulthood. Sometimes, those phases get pretty crazy. Meet a barred tiger salamander, complete a life cycle craft, and explore the concept of metamorphosis!

This program addresses the following NGSS standards for 3rd Grade:
- 3-LS1-1. Develop models to describe those organisms have unique and diverse life cycles but all have in common birth, growth, reproduction, and death.

AMAZING ADAPTATIONS

Discover the fascinating ways that animals and plants respond to the pressures of their environments using examples from the world of birds. Learn how to set up a bird-beak buffet in your classroom and meet a bird of prey live!

This program addresses the following NGSS standards for 4th Grade:
- 4-LS1-1. Construct an argument that plants and animals have internal and external structures that function to support survival, growth, behavior, and reproduction.

Programs available Mon.-Fri., free of charge. Visit gpnc.org or call 316-683-5499 to schedule.
THE FOOD WEB
Everything has to eat something to survive. Trace the movement and transfer of energy through an ecosystem by making your very own food web in the classroom. Explore these connections in-depths by meeting a predator-prey duo: the hognose snake and American toad.

This program addresses the following NGSS standards for 5th Grade:
- 5-PS3-1. Use models to describe that energy in animals' food (used for body repair, growth, motion, and to maintain body warmth) was once energy from the sun.
- 5-LS2-1. (and LS2.A) Develop a model to describe the movement of matter among plants, animals, decomposers, and the environment.

SUITCASE FOR SURVIVAL (MS AND HS)
Many animals stand on the brink of extinction, but thankfully, there a lot of people working together to make sure we don’t lose endangered species forever. Understand more about human impacts on animals with real items seized from the illegal wildlife trade and find out what we can do to protect endangered animals!

This program addresses the following NGSS standards for Middle School:
- MS-LS2-4. Construct an argument supported by empirical evidence that changes to physical or biological components of an ecosystem affect populations.
- MS-ESS3-3. Apply scientific principles to design a method for monitoring and minimizing a human impact on the environment.

WATER QUALITY (MS AND HS)
Do you know where your water comes from? Learn more about the importance of stream quality and how humans can reduce their impact on our water sources. Also, find out how scientists check the health of a body of water using the unusual critters that live in it—benthic macroinvertebrates!

This program addresses the following NGSS standards for High School:
- HS-ESS3-3. Create a computational simulation to illustrate the relationships among management of natural resources, the sustainability of human populations, and biodiversity.
- HS-ESS3-4. Evaluate or refine a technological solution that reduces impacts of human activities on natural systems.

KANSAS DAY
Learn about our state symbols— the plants and animals of the Kansas landscape that make our state unique! Test your knowledge of Kansas animals, and also meet either our state reptile or state amphibian live!

This limited program is offered from January 24th, 2021 through February 4th, 2021.

PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS & SENIORS
Our nature education is truly for all ages!
Bring a naturalist to you virtually, and meet one of our animal ambassadors. Pique your interest and appreciation of the natural world through a live encounter with either an opossum, a snake, or a bird of prey.

Programs available Mon.-Fri., free of charge. Visit gpnc.org or call 316-683-5499 to schedule.