



Diversity of Living Things

DEAR TEACHER:

Thank you for allowing us to enrich your students' education with this program. We hope that our combined efforts will provide a worthwhile, enjoyable and 'smooth' Museum visit.

Please note:

Enter your bookings in your Daybook (forgotten bookings are disappointing).

Class size is 30 students.

Double check your confirmation ticket for accuracy and inform us of any changes immediately.

Cancellation policy:

7 days notice must be provided to avoid being charged for your program.

Call us at 988-0626 if you have any students with special needs in your class or if you prefer to have particular areas of the program emphasized.

Divide your class into two groups before arriving. One supervisor per group is required to follow behind the students.

Arrive early out of courtesy to our volunteers and for an optimal experience.

Please have the admission fees collected before arriving and make the payment to the Museum box office (located on main level) before the program's starting time. Please make cheques payable to The Manitoba Museum.

Class control remains the teacher's responsibility.

Lunches: A number of areas in the Museum complex or the surrounding area are suitable for lunch. Spaces cannot be booked in advance. For more information phone 988-0626

Jackets and lunches can be stored in pull-out racks located near the classrooms on the lower level of the Museum. Valuables should be left at home.

Call 988-0626 or write us if we can help you develop specific Museum activities or if you have questions, suggestions or concerns.

We appreciate hearing from the students and, often display their posters and drawings if you would like to share them with us.

Enjoy your visit!

THE PROGRAM: 1 hour

This program is designed to introduce students to the diversity of living things found throughout the province of Manitoba. The focus of the program is on classifying living things according to the 5 kingdom system: Plants, Animals, Fungi, Protist and Monerans. Other topics covered include how living things adapt to their environment and the division of the animal kingdom into vertebrates and invertebrates. This program includes a museum gallery walk in which students tour Manitoba from North to South, as well as touchable specimens from each of the kingdoms.

PROGRAM OUTLINE:

- Classes of 20 or more are divided into two groups before entering the Museum Galleries.
- Starting in separate locations, each group will go through the Arctic, the Boreal Forest and the Grasslands Galleries. Examples of the 5 kingdoms will be explored.
- To conclude the tour, each group will classify touchable specimens according to the five kingdoms.

PRE-VISIT SUGGESTIONS:

- Introduce the 5 kingdom system of classification.
- Discuss the difference between living and non-living things. Living things possess traits that non-living things lack. (ie. the ability to grow, reproduce, adapt, respond to their environment, & the need for an energy source)
- Define the differences between the plant & fungi kingdoms.
- Research the characteristics that scientists use to classify living things as animals.
- Have students flip through nature and science magazines and classify the living things they see according to the 5 kingdoms. Show your students magnified pictures of the protist kingdom (ie. diatoms, amoebas, euglena).

FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES:

- Collect pond water from a creek and set up a station in the classroom for the students to study the protist kingdom under the microscope.
- Choose a planet in our solar system to research. What resources are available and what is the climate like. Based on this, design an alien that would be adapted to living on your planet. What adaptations would it have? What would it look like?
- Have each student think of a mnemonic device to remember each level of the classification system.
- Using the Internet as a guide, choose one organism and classify it from Kingdom to Species.
- With advanced students, discuss virus particles. What characteristics of living organisms do they display? Are they alive? Do they fit into the 5 kingdom system?

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