

'Diversity of Life'



Session Outline:

The natural world is full of a huge variety of living things, all shapes and sizes from the weird to the wonderful. In this interactive workshop, your students will explore the diversity of life on earth and investigate what threatens it. Covering topics such as adaptation, variation and classification, this workshop provides students an opportunity to examine and get hands-on with real museum specimens.



This session lasts approximately **2 hours**. Groups are welcome to spend time looking at the other exhibitions either before or after the practical session, if booked in advance and appropriately supervised.

Owing to the use of delicate museum specimens and level of supervision involved in this practical it is ideal for **25 students** at **Key Stage 3**.

Before your visit to the Museum, you may find it helpful to discuss the following learning objectives with your class. This will give pupils a brief idea of what to expect in the session and will provide them with a basic scaffold of information on which they can apply the knowledge they will acquire over the course of the session.

Key points covered in this session:

- Appreciate classification is a method of organising living things into similar groups
- All organisms are classified in the same way (Kingdom, Phylum, Class, Order, Family, Genus, Species)
- Life on Earth is so varied because each organism has adaptations that suit its particular habitat and lifestyle
- Inter-specific variation is the difference between organisms of different species
- Intra-specific variation is the difference between organisms of the same species
- Create awe and wonder about the natural world

Skills/Practical Techniques

Over the course of the session, pupils will:

- Be introduced to the diverse and rich mix of living organisms on the planet
- Learn how a universal system of classification is required so that scientists all over the world can organise living things
- Use keys to classify a range of specimens from the Museum collection
- Develop close observational skills by examining specimens carefully and identifying specific features
- Work in small groups to solve the tasks set in the session
- Be encouraged to explain and justify the conclusions they come to when presenting their ideas to the rest of the class.