



The Skeleton Crew

Key Stage 2

Length of Session:

90 minutes: 45 min object handling session followed by 45 min self-guided trail in the Museum.

Maximum group size:

32 children plus 4 members of staff.

Session outline

- Investigate the major types of animal skeleton, by getting hands-on with specimens; from jellyfish to corals to elephants!
- We explore bone growth and structure and how to keep bones healthy.
- After some close observation of fully articulated animal skeletons, children are challenged to guess the identity of the mystery animals.
- You will also be offered the chance to feel the skeleton of some live animals!



National Curriculum Areas:

Science: Animals, including humans; Living things and their habitats; Working scientifically.



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Suggestions for pre-visit activities

- Discuss what your class already knows about skeletons; what types do they know and why do animals have them?
- Ask the children if they think that there are any animals that don't have a skeleton.
- Label the major bones in a human skeleton and try to find the corresponding bones in another animal skeleton.
- Ask children what they think will be the largest or smallest skeletons that they might see in the museum.

Suggestions for post-visit activities

- Make your own hydrostatic worm skeletons by filling long balloons with corn flour mixture and wrapping them with elastic bands to make segments!
- Create your own insect exoskeletons out of junk material like boxes and pipe cleaners wrapped with papier-mache (remember an insect needs 3 bits of its body!).
- Get children to investigate major bones and their shapes by inventing their own vertebrate skeleton with cut out white paper or card bones (you can have a really good chat about bone and joint function and suitability to the animal's lifestyle and habitat while you do it!).

Learning Outcomes

- Understanding that all animals have skeletons.
- Knowledge of the shared functions of all skeletons.
- Knowledge that there are four major types of skeleton and awareness of their structures.
- Awareness that bone is a living, growing tissue that is kept healthy by the nutrients that animals ingest.
- Practice of close observation, analytical and scientific enquiry skills and appropriate scientific language.



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For further details and to book your visit, contact:
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