



Spectacular Skeletons

Key Stage 1

Length of Session:

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

Maximum group size:

32 children plus 4 members of staff.

Session outline

- Discover why every animal on the planet has a skeleton.
- Children use close observation and handling of our spectacular skeleton specimens, from worms and jellyfish to lion skulls and elephant bones.
- We investigate three types of animal skeleton, embedding the children's learning through mime and movement.
- You will also be offered the chance to feel the skeleton of some live animals!



National Curriculum Areas:

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



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Suggestions for pre-visit activities

- Ask the children which animals they think have skeletons and why animals have them.
- Look at the main bones in the human skeleton.
- Do some skeleton drawings with chalk on black paper.
- Visit our interactive Learning Zone webpage on animal skeletons at <http://www.oum.ox.ac.uk/thezone/animals/life/move.htm>

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 create 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 while you do it!).

Learning Outcomes

- Knowledge that all animals have skeletons.
- Understanding of the core function of all skeletons.
- Knowledge of three specific skeleton types.
- Appreciation of how muscles and skeletons work together.
- Understanding that bones are living growing parts of our bodies.

For further details and to book your visit, contact:
education@oum.ox.ac.uk



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