

## THE ADAPTATIONS OF LIFE

### Session Brief | KS3

(1 Hour)

How do animals cope with extreme temperatures or defend themselves from predators? In this session students will consider what adaptations are and how they arise through the process of natural selection. They will then have an opportunity to see real animal adaptations for feeding, avoiding predation, movement, extreme climate and nocturnal life, by investigating a selection of real animal skins and artefacts. Finally, they will meet a live animal and find out how it is perfectly adapted for survival in its habitat.

### Session Content

- Investigate what an adaptation is.
- Use real animal artefacts to explore animal adaptations.
- Meet a live animal and discuss how it is perfectly adapted to its environment.
- Look at the theory of Natural Selection.

### National Curriculum Links

- Differences between species.
- The variation between species and between individuals of the same species means some organisms compete more successfully, which can drive natural selection.
- Changes in the environment may leave individuals within a species, and some entire species, less well adapted to compete successfully and reproduce, which in turn may lead to extinction.
- The importance of maintaining biodiversity and the use of gene banks to preserve hereditary materials.

### Pre-visit

- Research into Charles Darwin and how he developed his theory of evolution including Natural Selection.

### During visit

- Explore the zoo and see how our animals have adapted to their natural environment, make notes and take pictures (remember to turn off your flash) to prove your theories.

### Post-visit

- Using the notes and pictures you took during your visit, put together your case for evolution by natural selection to explain how animals adapt.

**£40 for the session, max 36 students and park ticket £14.50 per person**