

Skull Lab

Grab a skull and get to work as a field biologist. Using only skulls, and tools like rulers, calculators and pencils, determine the type of species you have.



About the Learning Lab

Museum Theme: Midwest Ecosystems

Grades: 5th-8th grades

Duration: 60 minutes

Capacity: 30 per session, multiple sessions available for larger groups

Cost: \$6/student, \$4/KUSD student

Includes 1 Museum Experience and Class Discovery time

Goals of the Lab:

- Students will work collaboratively to build critical thinking skills
- Students will conduct experiments and investigations using real tools and scientific protocol
- Students will understand animal adaptations and how they help animals survive
- Students will engage in workshop generated conversations with teachers, other classmates and the facilitator

Standards:

NGSS

DCI:

5th grade:

- LS2.A Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems

Middle School:

- LS2.A Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems
- LS2.B Cycle of Matter and Energy Transfer in Ecosystems

S&E Practices:

- Analyze and Interpret Data
- Engaging in Argument from Evidence
- Obtaining, Evaluating and Communicating Information

CCC:

- Patterns
- Cause and Effect
- Stability and Change

Wisconsin Science Standards by 8th grade:

- C.8.2 Identify data and locate sources of information including their own records to answer the questions being investigated
- C.8.4 Use inferences to help decide possible results of their investigations, use observations to check their inferences
- C.8.6 State what they have learned from investigations, relating their inferences to scientific knowledge and to data they have collected
- C.8.10 Discuss the importance of their results and implications of their work with peers, teachers, and other adults
- F.8.2 Show how organisms have adapted structures to match their functions, providing means of encouraging individual and group survival within specific environments
- F.8.8 Show through investigations how organisms both depend on and contribute to the balance or imbalance of populations and/or ecosystems, which in turn contribute to the total system of life on the planet