

MIDDLE SCHOOLS



Riverside Reptiles
Education Center
Your Science Connection



Adaptations: In Order to Survive

(6-8)

Mimicry, pseudo eyes, migration, and prehensile tails are some of the unique adaptations that help animals survive in their environments. Your students will meet live animals and view the adaptations that they have to support their survival. This class will touch on genetic variation, natural selection and evolution.

NGSS: LS1.A/B, LS4.B/C

Animal Behavior: Life Cycles

(6-8)

Animals rely on food, light, water, and space in order to survive. This program will focus on how environmental and genetic factors influence growth and development. Your students will observe various ectothermic animals and discover how different conditions, such as color, size, and nesting habits may affect their reproductive rates and life cycles. Students will get face to face with a young alligator and other reptiles/amphibians that call RREC home.

NGSS: LS1.A/B, LS2.A/C, LS4.B/C

Endangered Species: Vanishing Wildlife

(6-8)

Habitat destruction, poaching, air pollution, and climate change are some things changing ecosystems today. Once the physical and biological components of ecosystem are affected, changes in populations

occur. In this class, students will meet endangered animals and learn what conservation efforts are being made to support their survival. Our actions today, can affect their tomorrow.

NGSS: LS1.A/B, LS2.B/C, LS3.A, LS4.A/B/C

Food Webs: Producer, Consumer, or Decomposer?

(6-8)

In this session, students will analyze the world of food webs. Learn the importance of living and nonliving parts of an ecosystem and how every living thing is connected. View animals that will grow to be apex predators and unlucky animals that get eaten. This program highlights the diversity of food chains in the animal kingdom.

NGSS: LS1.A/B/C, LS2.A/B, LS3.A/B, LS4.B/C

Habitats: Biomes, Niches, Ecosystems

(6-8)

What role does an animal's home play in their survival? In this virtual session, your students will learn what traits support successful survival and reproduction rates. They will be able to explain how adaptations tie into an animal's habitat. Animals from different habitats from around the world will be viewed.

NGSS: LS1.A/B, LS4.B/C

Native Wildlife: In Your Own Backyard

(6-8)

Get up close with a Northern Copperhead and learn the other venomous snake to call CT and MA home. Explore the characteristics of various turtle species and learn how genetic factors can play a role in color variations among species. This program features wildlife that can be observed in both states.

NGSS: LS1.A/B, LS4.B/C

Reptiles and Amphibians: Ectothermic Animals

(6-8)

How do reptiles and amphibians differ? Who evolved first? Which group of animals has lived on earth longer and why? In this session, students will explore the wonderful world of reptiles and amphibians and the various adaptations that make each special and diverse.

NGSS: LS1.A/B, LS4.B/C

Senses and Defenses: Only the Strong Survive

(6-8)

Do you know what snake mimics the deadly coral snake? How about an animal, other than a snake, that uses venom as a means of defense? Just like humans, animals rely on their senses for survival. They also need special defenses to protect themselves if they are in danger. In this program, your students will view live animals that have exceptional senses used to communicate and how their defenses evolved themselves from predation.

NGSS: LS1.A/D, PS4.B