



Animal Vision

Please use this information to help you and your students get the most from your visit.



Your workshop

Workshop name Animal Vision

Location Attenborough Studio, Darwin Centre, Orange Zone

Start time 10.30 11.30 12.30 13.30

Please ensure you are ready and waiting to enter the studio 10 minutes before the show is scheduled to begin. Unfortunately, we are unable to admit latecomers.

Duration 30 minutes

Minimum ratio 1 adult : 10 students

Please ensure you meet the required minimum adult : student ratio.

Maximum group size 60 students, 6 adults

About the workshop

Can we really see everything that goes on in our environment? This live animal show with animal expert Martin Rapley proves there is a world visible only to certain reptiles and invertebrates. Pupils will discover how scientific research by Professor Richard Fortey of the Natural History Museum uncovered the earliest-known eye. They will see that eye adaptations in snakes, iguanas and the praying mantis allow individuals to escape predators and locate prey. We find out that bees and butterflies can detect ultraviolet light, which helps the process of pollination. Finally, we will end on a mystery: why do scorpions glow in ultraviolet light? In the future, maybe one of your pupils will be the scientist who works it out...

Before and after your visit

Please see our web page www.nhm.ac.uk/education on Animal Vision for pre-visit activities for years 5–8.

A note about behaviour

An experienced science educator will be presenting the show together with Martin Rapley. We work to make it an inspiring and inclusive experience for all pupils and find we rarely have problems with behaviour. However, teachers have overall responsibility for the conduct of their pupils and we expect you to support us with this where necessary. Pupils benefit significantly when teachers and accompanying adults get involved in the workshops, so please do join in.

Health and Safety

- this show involves the following live animals including a rat, snake, milk snake, mantis, emperor scorpions and an iguana
- the handlers are experienced but it is important your pupils behave calmly
- volunteers will be selected to handle certain live animals, if any of your pupils should not be selected, please inform the science educator at the start of the session
- scorpions will be shown under ultra violet light – pupils will not be permitted to touch the scorpions and the UV light will not radiate near the audience

Please assist staff when seating students in the Attenborough Studio to ensure that gaps are not left between seats. Please be aware that handheld devices are located in seat armrests and attached via a cable. To avoid trip hazards, please ensure students return their devices to the housing before leaving the venue.

Evaluation of the workshop/show

We will ask for your opinion on the workshop using a questionnaire afterwards. This will help us make sure it suits your needs so please fill it in as fully as possible.

Learning objectives

Pupils will

- enhance their knowledge and understanding of adaptation
- enjoy engaging with animals and staff
- increase their awe, wonder and respect for the natural world
- be inspired to learn more about invertebrates and vertebrates
- develop their observation skills

National Curriculum links

Key Stage 2 science

- Sc1 1a that science is about thinking creatively to try to explain how living and non-living things work, and to establish links between causes and effects
- Sc2 5b about the different plants and animals found in different habitats
- Sc2 5c how animals and plants in two different habitats are suited to their environment
- Sc2 3d about the parts of the flower and their role in the life cycle of flowering plants, including pollination

Key Stage 3 science

1.1 Scientific thinking

- a using scientific ideas and models to explain phenomena and developing them creatively to generate and test theories

3.3 Organisms, behaviour and health

- d all living things show variation, can be classified and are interdependent, interacting with each other and their environment

4 Curriculum opportunities

- c use real-life examples as a basis for finding out about science