

## Science Demonstration Program, AKA Demos

**Opossums:** Pre-K/PPCD (30 minutes). A stuffed opossum is used to demonstrate the special adaptations and characteristics of this Native American marsupial. Please limit these presentations to fall semester only.

**Animal Friends:** Pre-K/PPCD (30 minutes). An assortment of live animals (such as a rabbit, bird, turtle, frog, snake or lizard) are used to introduce students to basic animal traits.

**Guinea Pigs:** Kindergarten (30 minutes). A story, *Guinea Pigs Don't Read Books*, is read and discussed. A live guinea pig is shown. (Pig can be handled.) Please limit these presentations to fall semester only.

**Hedgehog Demo:** Kindergarten (30 minutes). *The Hat* by Jan Brett is read and discussed and a live hedgehog is shown. (Hedgy can be handled.)

**Small Mammals:** 1<sup>st</sup> grade (45 minutes). A live chinchilla is used to demonstrate its characteristics, behaviors and adaptations to the environment. Then students compare this mammal's adaptations to those of the hamster. (Animals are not handled.)

**Eggs and Nests Demo:** 1<sup>st</sup> grade (45 minutes). Students observe a variety of eggs as they compare and contrast their physical properties. Children explore a bag of objects to discover if and how the items roll to discover why egg shape is important. A variety of bird nests are displayed for observation. Please limit these presentations to fall semester only.

**Body Coverings Demo:** 2<sup>nd</sup> grade (45 minutes). A combination of live animals and teaching aids are used to describe the body coverings of fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals. Featured animals include a lizard, tree frog, dove and hamster. (Animals are handled.) This was designed to go with the Undercover Lab for which materials are available from SRC.

**Snakes:** 2<sup>nd</sup> grade (45 minutes). Students review characteristics of reptiles and learn the unique adaptations of snakes. They will observe several live, non-venomous specimens and various teaching aids. Featured animals include the Trans Pecos rat snake, gray banded king snake and a coral mimic. (Animals are handled.)

**Insects:** 2<sup>nd</sup> grade (45 minutes). The insect's place in our ecosystem will be discussed. A sample insect collection will be shown along with live African hissing cockroaches. (Animals may be handled.)

**Amphibians:** 3<sup>rd</sup> grade (45 minutes). A selection of live amphibians is available for close examination by the students. Various characteristics and interesting behaviors of amphibians are discussed. Featured animals may include the salamander, fire belly newt, gulf coast toad, clawed frog, siren and rococo toad. (Animals are handled.)

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**Arthropods:** 3<sup>rd</sup> grade (50 minutes). Live and preserved specimens are used to compare and contrast characteristics of different classes of arthropods. Featured animals may include the millipede, tarantula, hissing cockroach, land hermits, a scorpion and pill bugs. (The millipede and hissing cockroach are handled.)

**Aquatic Bird Study Skins:** 4<sup>th</sup> grade (50 minutes). Students observe different aquatic bird skins to discover their adaptations for life in or near the water. Students will participate in an exploratory activity to discover how certain beaks are adapted to eat specific foods. Students need paper and pen or pencil.

**Reptiles:** 4<sup>th</sup> grade (45 minutes). A selection of live reptiles will be available for close examination by the students with a discussion of their various characteristics and interesting behaviors. Featured animals include the box turtle, soft shell turtle, red-eared slider, lizard and corn snake. (Animals are handled.)

**Bird Study Skins:** 5<sup>th</sup> grade (50 minutes). Study skins will be used to illustrate the many unique characteristics and adaptations of this class of animals. Students need paper and pen or pencil.

**Mammal Skulls:** 5<sup>th</sup> grade (50 minutes). The volunteer discusses traits such as eye placement and tooth arrangement to provide clues for the students to guess the identity of common skulls. They will then be given the correct answer with a discussion of similarities and differences and identifying characteristics. Students need paper and pen or pencil.

**CSI Cy-Fair:** 5<sup>th</sup> grade (50 minutes) Students solve a “who done it” mystery as they rotate through three station lab investigations analyzing fingerprints, fiber samples and chromatography samples.

**Ecosystems:** 6<sup>th</sup> grade (50 minutes). The volunteer brings a variety of live animals to link as a food chain, ultimately creating a food web. A power point presentation accompanies the lesson. Featured animals may include a rat or mouse family, snake and a toad. (Animals are handled.)

**Biomes:** 7<sup>th</sup> grade (50 minutes). The volunteer brings a variety of plants and animals indigenous to several of the biomes studied: tundra, desert, grassland/savannah, deciduous forest, rainforest. Featured animals may include the Uromastix, snake, hamsters, a millipede and night crawlers. (Animals are shown in their cages.)

**Endangered Elephants:** 8<sup>th</sup> grade (50 minutes). The volunteer brings a variety of confiscated elephant items and discusses how changes in ecosystems caused by living organisms, including humans, such as the poaching of elephants for ivory has led to an increase in tusklessness in elephant populations. A power point presentation accompanies the lesson.