

Hills Alive School Programs

Grade 3: Adaptation Station

2 Hours

(Science Standards: 1a,1b,1e,2a,2b,3a,3b,3c,3d,and 3e)

Key Concepts: Plants and animals in the Preserve have undergone adaptations that help them survive in their environment. They form a complex, interdependent food web within the Preserve. Native species that evolved to become unique are endemic. Plants and animals that arrived with people are introduced. Wildlife is vulnerable to predation by introduced species and habitat loss.

Goals: To foster an awareness, appreciation, and sense of stewardship of Preserve plants and wildlife, with an emphasis on adaptation, interdependence and human impact.

Objectives: Students will describe some of the adaptations that enable Preserve organisms to thrive in their environment. Students will also be able to suggest several ways they can help care for the Preserve.

Activities:

1. Skull Investigation- Students will observe the skulls of different Preserve animals to learn how their teeth and eyes and ear structures help them survive.
2. Olfactory Experiment- A nose knows; students will use their sense of smell to guess some mysterious scents and then experience first hand why some animals sense of smell are better than others.
3. Pledge Creation- Students will be given time to create a personal pledge on what they plan to do to help protect the Preserve's wildlife.