

Grade Levels: 4 -12

Time: 45 Minutes



Conservation Connection

Goal: Provide an introduction to the concept of conservation using hands-on animal interaction and real-life involvement.

Objectives:

- Students will understand the concept of conservation.
- Students will recognize the importance of biodiversity.
- Students will understand Brevard Zoo's mission statement - "Wildlife Conservation Through Education and Participation."
- Students will state reasons conservation efforts are important.
- Students will know how they can help with conservation in their own community.

PLANNING YOUR RESERVATION

°Fall and spring fill quickly
PLEASE REGISTER EARLY

°Groups must register
2 WEEKS IN ADVANCE

°Programs require a
MINIMUM OF 15 PEOPLE

°Programs are available
ON AND OFF-SITE

°Visit our website for
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

°Proper adult supervision
REQUIRED AT ALL TIMES

Why do plants and animals disappear? How do humans impact the natural environment around them? Learn about the many conservation programs Brevard Zoo takes part in and discover how you can get involved.

Curriculum Alignment: SC.6.E.6.1, SC.6.E.6.2, SC.6.E.7.2, SC.6.E.7.6, SC.6.E.7.7, SC.6.N.2.2, SC.7.N.1.4, SC.7.N.1.5, SC.7.E.6.5, SC.7.L.15.3, SC.7.L.17.1, SC.7.L.17.2, SC.7.L.17.3, SC.8.N.1.4, SC.8.N.4.2, SC.8.N.4.1, SC.8.P.9.2, , SC.912.E.6.2, SC.912.#.6.4, SC.912.L.17.4, SC.912.17.6, SC.912.L.17.7, SC.912.L.17.8, SC.912.L.17.15, SC.912.L.17.16, SC.912.L.17.17, SC.912.L.17.18, SC.912.L.17.20, SC.912.L.17.8, SC.912.L.17.9

Where education and conservation collide!

This program, presented by Brevard Zoo Education staff, is an enhanced experience of the distinct and unique wildlife habitats found at Brevard Zoo. Students delve into the concept through fun, interactive activities, questions and participatory responses, hands-on animal encounters, and animal meet and greets. Programs are designed to supplement in-class learning. Depth and structure vary depending on grade and age range.

Keywords: Biodiversity, Conservation, Ecosystem, Erosion, Endangered Species, Habitat, Native Species, Pollution, Mangrove, Sea Grasses, Algae Bloom, Estuary

What is conservation?

Conservation is the official supervision of rivers, forests, and other natural resources in order to preserve and protect them through prudent management. Biodiversity is the variety of all life on Earth. Measuring biodiversity helps us rate the quality of the environment and the health of all living things.

Maintaining biological diversity is a key part of maintaining the health of the earth's ecological systems and future resources. The same could be said for the Indian River Lagoon. Besides the 2,100 species of plants, the Lagoon is home to more than 2,200 species of animals - the most in any North American estuary.

The Indian River Lagoon has become increasingly unhealthy. When the Florida heat rises or we get too much rain or too little, the lagoon shows the effects of years of misuse. We have been washing our yard waste, including pesticides and fertilizers into the lagoon for years. The additional nutrients cause large algae blooms and result in the death of sea grasses, which cause oxygen levels to fall and fish to die. The dead fish produce more nutrients, which then cause additional algae blooms.

Through education, we can help stop the vicious cycle! Learn about the problems, support public projects that will remove the muck, change personal habits, and volunteer with one of the groups working to improve the estuary.

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