

Trout Lake Nature Center

Grade 3: Classifying Vertebrates and Invertebrates

Teachers can integrate their programs with other courses of study such as reading, language arts, math and other science concepts. A visit to TLNC at any time of year will be worthwhile for you and your students to engage their interests and extend the courses of study.

Nature of Science can be implemented all year. Teachers can use TLNC's Grade 3: Classifying Vertebrates and Invertebrates program to help understand the nature of science: observe, investigate, compare and contrast, measure and record data.

- **Observe:** Students will observe a variety of vertebrates and invertebrates)
- **Investigate:** Students will investigate the characteristics of vertebrates and invertebrates. Students will investigate different types of vertebrates—amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals and fish. Students will investigate different types of invertebrates—mollusks, crustaceans, worms, insects and arachnids.
- **Contrast and Compare:** Students will compare and contrast the characteristics of vertebrates and invertebrates.
- **Measure and Record:** Students will record information about vertebrates and invertebrates.

Pre-Visit Activities: Students should become familiar with the concept of classification before visiting TLNC.

To better prepare your students for their TLNC field experience, the following activities are suggested:

Activity 1 –In small groups, students can cut out a variety of animal photos from magazines and sort them by characteristics such as scales, fur, size, etc.

Activity 2 – Read any or all the following. *What is a Vertebrate* by Bobbie Kalman, *Incredible Invertebrates* by Debra Housel or choose a book from the library about any vertebrate or invertebrate. Students can write a description with clues of their animal without naming their animal, read it to the class and see if the class can decide if that animal is a vertebrate or invertebrate.

Example for a frog:

- I live in and near the water
- I will eat anything smaller than myself
- I catch my food with my long sticky tongue
- My babies are called tadpoles.

Post Visit Activity Suggestions

Activity 1 – As a class, students should complete the questions at the bottom of the Vertebrate Worksheet.

Activity 2 –Students can come up with another sentence that will help them remember the different categories for the classification chart. The sentence used at TLNC was; Kids prefer cheese over fried green spinach.

Activity 3 – Have students choose another Florida animal that they observed at TLNC and see if they can classify it by its kingdom, phylum, class, order, family, genus and species.

Activity 4 – Write a thank you note to TLNC’s sponsors for your field trip to TLNC and include one thing you learned on the field trip.

1. City of Eustis
2. Lake County Board of County Commissioners
3. Lake County Water Authority
4. Lake County School Board