

Session: Life

“Life finds a way.” This session explores one of the strangest things to have ever happened on planet Earth: life. Using our natural history collection, and the Linnaean system of classification, students explore the similarities and differences between all living things. ‘How are we different from trees?’ ‘How are we similar to wolves?’ these are the topics which we will explore ending finally with the strangest living thing of all, Homo Sapiens.

Session Breakdown:

- Introduction: What is alive?
- Defining Life Activity
 - List of things that make something ‘alive’
- ‘The Interconnectedness of all Things’ or What We Have in Common
 - Introduce the idea that all life can be divided up using one system
 - Linnaean Classification: KPCOFGS, King Phillip Comes Over For Good Soup
 - Example: Trees vs Rabbits
- The Slow Path to Humans
 - Starting at Kingdom and ending with Species, students see and handle examples of living things which share common traits with humanity until getting to our closest relatives.
- Homo Sapiens Discussion
 - Are Humans alone? Discuss idea of Neanderthals, and other modern offshoots
- Museum Gallery Activity
 - Life drawing – Using Natural History displays
- Summery & Farewell

Duration: 1.5hrs (Museum), 1hr (Outreach)

Curriculum Links:

Key Stage 2: Science – SC1 (1a,b), SC2 (1a-c, 2e, 4a-c, 5a-e)

Key Stage 2: Science – 1.1b, 2.2, 2.3, 3.3, general knowledge ‘Organisms and their environment’

Artefacts Used:

- Cotton Plant
- Rabbit Skulls
- Monkey Skulls
- Tiger Skull
- Mushroom Samples
- Snail Shells
- Taxidermy Birds
- Taxidermy Mouse
- Taxidermy Porcupine (Museum)
- Insect Collection