

The Origin of Animal Life

Learn about South Australia's amazing Natural History

Come on a fun and educational tour at the South Australian Museum and learn about the ancient life that once thrived in our oceans and walked our lands.

Dr Felicity Coutts will take your class back in time on a guided session through the Palaeontology level of the South Australian Museum. Hear how our ancient animal ancestors – the Ediacara biota – went extinct and gave rise to the Cambrian 'explosion' of animal life as we know it today!

Learn about South Australia's marine reptiles during the age of the dinosaurs, and how they became opalised, and discover the extinct giant marsupials that once roamed Australia.

Educational sessions begin on the lawns outside the South Australian Museum at 9.45am and finish by 11.45am. Transport to and from the South Australian Museum to be arranged by the school.

Sessions will address the following year levels and key curriculum content

Year 4: Earth & Space Sciences

Earth's surface changes over time as a result of natural processes and human activity (ACSSU075).

Elaboration: Collecting evidence of change from local landforms, rocks or fossils.

Activity Sheet: Observing and evaluating fossils and rocks.

Year 5: Biological Sciences

Living things have structural features and adaptations that help them to survive in their environment (ACSSU043).

Activity Sheet: Observing and evaluating the different fossilised animals, their different body types and how these body types are adapted to the surrounding environments.

Year 6: Biological Sciences

The growth and survival of living things are affected by physical conditions of their environment (ACSSU094).

Activity Sheet: Observing the past environments where animal life lived. Evaluating how physical changes in these environments led to changes in the animal communities and influenced their survival.

Year 10: Biological Sciences

The theory of evolution by natural selection explains the diversity of living things and is supported by a range of scientific evidence (ACSSU185).

Elaboration: Evaluating and interpreting evidence for evolution, including the fossil record, chemical and anatomical similarities, and geographical distribution of species.

Activity Sheet: Observation of past animal communities and specific fossils shows how animal life has changed dramatically over time through natural selection. Reference to scientific articles to show how scientific discoveries are made.

Students will be supplied with an engaging worksheet (aligned with the curriculum) on arrival. Felicity will engage with the students and use the activity sheet to help facilitate student learning throughout the session.



Location: South Australian Museum, Level Three

Duration: 2 hours

Cost: \$25 per student | Maximum 30 students per group

To book or get in touch, contact Felicity at felicitycoutts@gmail.com or **0418 831 944**

To provide enough notice, please book at least two weeks in advance of the session

Please note: The topics of the educational session will depend on the year level of the class

Altered start and finish times of the sessions can be arranged

See you at the South Australian Museum! ☺

