FIELD TRIP ACTIVITIES FOR GRADE 5 STUDENTS

Student name:_____

Directions

- Find an exhibit with a koala. Observe the koala for 5 minutes.
- Draw a picture of the koala. Label all distinguishing features.

- Describe the koala in detail. Include the animal's size and shape. Identify any adaptations.

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- I wonder... Make a list of questions you have about the koala and/or its exhibit. Can you find an answer by reading signs located near the exhibit? Can you find an answer by watching the animal?

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CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES: GRADE 5

THEME: Investigation and Experimentation
How would you find the answers to your questions?

OBJECTIVES

1. Students will use their observation skills.
2. Students will describe the physical attributes of a koala.
3. Students will investigate these concepts from the National Science Content Standards:
    - Abilities Necessary to do Scientific Inquiry
    - Structure and Function in Living Systems
    - Diversity and Adaptations of Organisms

PREVISIT ACTIVITIES

- **Inquiry Lesson:** Ask the students what they know about koalas. Write down their answers. Ask the students what they would like to know about koalas. Write down their answers. Write this question on the board: *How would your find out the answers to your questions?* Ask the students to "guess" some answers. Ask the students how they might find the answers to this question (e.g. books, visit to a zoo, watch a movie or a television show, ask an expert, etc.).

- Divide the class into teams of five and give each team one object to observe (e.g. rocks, feathers, unusual leaves, skulls, antique tools, odd or unfamiliar items). Have the students on each team:
    1. Observe the objects for three minutes and list everything they notice about it.
    2. Write a list of "I wonder" questions they have about the objects. What would they like to know about the object? Where did it come from? What is it made of? How is it used?
    3. Choose one question and write down possible answers. What is the group's "best guess" answer? This is their hypothesis.
    4. List ways to test their hypothesis through further observation and research.
    5. Conduct research at the library or on the Internet.
    6. Draw conclusions based on their testing and research, share their results with the rest of the class. Where they able to answer their question? Why or why not? Was their hypothesis correct? Discuss how scientists use this method to study the natural world.

POSTVISIT ACTIVITIES

- Ask students what they have learned about koalas. Review the list of what they wanted to know about koalas to see if their questions were answered. Review the question: *How did they find out the answers to their questions?*

- Have students practice recording data by creating their own field journals. Explore an outdoor area near the school. Have students use journals to record observations about the plants and animals they see. Encourage students to use maps, diagrams, and drawings in their journals.

- Read the non-fiction book Koala: Animals Under Threat by Carol Inskipp to your students. Ask the students to point out similarities and differences between the threats facing koalas in Australia and the risks to their local wildlife. Discuss how habitats may become threatened. What happens to animals that live in endangered habitats? Brainstorm ways students can help protect their local habitats. Choose an idea from the list and take action!