EXpedition Classify: A Trek Through the Animal Kingdom!

Thank you for participating in the Virtual Outreach Program at the Michigan State University (MSU) Museum! Virtual visits are an innovative way to provide a fun and meaningful learning experience without the expense, permission forms and geographic limitations of ordinary field trips. Using videoconferencing technology, you and your students have the opportunity to visit the MSU Museum, a Smithsonian Affiliate and Michigan’s largest natural science and cultural museum. We hope you enjoy Expedition Classify: A Trek Through the Animal Kingdom! If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us at office@virtualoutreach.org or at 517-353-3882.

WHAT YOU SHOULD PREPARE FOR THE VIRTUAL FIELD TRIP

- Print off the Teacher packet from http://museum.msu.edu/ProgramsandPartnerships/Educational/VirtualOutreach/ScienceFieldTrips.html
- Make copies of Unknown Animal Worksheet and Classification Key for each student or group.
- Have available pencils/crayons or other writing utensils to complete the worksheet.

DESCRIPTION OF THE CLASSIFICATION ACTIVITY

The classification activity integrates all of the lessons learned during the virtual field trip. Students will be asked to classify an animal based off of pictures and scientific notes that are a part of their Unknown Animal Worksheet. Once the activity begins, the class will need to be split into groups of 3-4 students and each group should be given the worksheet as well as the classification key. The classification key is a simplified version of a dichotomous key that students may encounter later in their scientific learning. There are four different Unknown Animal Worksheets, so make sure that no group has the same one or at least that they are not near a group working on the same one. Once each group reaches a conclusion, we will discuss how each group classified their animal.

Please dial in on the date of your program approximately 5-10 minutes before you are scheduled to begin and let us know when you class is ready to start. Our IP address is 35.8.122.60. A test call can be arranged prior to your program by contacting us at office@virtualoutreach.org or at 517-353-3882.

Once again thank you for requesting your virtual fieldtrip from the MSU Museum’s Virtual Outreach Program. We look forward to meeting you and your young scientists!