Science Safaris • Grades 6-12

Journey out into the field for an unforgettable hands-on learning experience. The Virginia Living Museum’s science safaris give students an exciting combination of in-class laboratory instruction and hands-on topical field study. Developed under a Virginia Environmental Endowment grant as model programs for high school students, the Museum’s science safaris are combined laboratory and field classes that stress field study, experimentation, data collection and analysis. After an introduction to the day’s topic, students will leave the classroom behind to become immersed in a first-hand learning experience in the natural world.

Cave Ecology – Grades 7-12
Science SOLs LS.6 LS.8 LS.10 LS.11 ES.1 ES.2 ES.7 ES.8 BIO.1 BIO.4 BIO.8
Descend into the fascinating world of twilight zones and troglobites while exploring wild caves in western Virginia.

Chesapeake Bay Ecology – Grades 6-12
Science SOLs 6.1 6.3 6.5 6.7 6.9 LS.4 LS.6 LS.8 LS.9 LS.10 LS.11 BIO.1 BIO.4 BIO.6 BIO.8
Sein in shallow off-shore water and dip-net in a salt marsh to learn first-hand about the biology and ecology of the Bay.

Estuarine Ecology – Grades 7-12
Science SOLs LS.4 LS.6 LS.8 LS.9 LS.10 LS.11 BIO.1 BIO.4 BIO.6 BIO.8
From canoes, monitor salinity and other physical factors that affect the survival of creatures in the Chesapeake Bay.

Freshwater Aquatics – Grades 7-12
Science SOLs LS.4 LS.6 LS.8 LS.9 LS.11 BIO.1 BIO.4 BIO.6 BIO.8 CH.1
Canoe a freshwater ecosystem, collect and analyze data to identify factors that lead to eutrophication of aquatic ecosystems.

Paleontology – Grades 6-12
Science SOLs LS.4 LS.8 LS.13 ES.1 ES.2 ES.9 BIO.4 BIO.6 BIO.7 BIO.8
Collect, identify and analyze fossils to reveal the history of an ancient ocean environment that once existed in the Coastal Plain region.

Length of Program 6 - 12+ hours (varies with destination)
Students 25 maximum FEE Contract Schools: Please call for information
Other Schools: $30 per student ($660 minimum)
Cave Ecology ($35 student/$700 minimum)
Fuel surcharge may apply.
Safaris are field study programs. They do not include a self-guided visit to the Museum’s exhibits.

Payment and Cancellation
Payment can be made by cash, check, credit card or the Museum can invoice.
Two weeks notice is required for cancellations for all bookings.

Chaperones
Classroom teachers and school staff are admitted free. The Museum also recommends one adult chaperone for every 10 students.
Classroom Outreach Programs • Grades PreK-3

A Walk in the Woods - Grade PreK
(Two identical ‘mini-sessions’ make up each program; 20 students maximum per mini-session.)
Young students embark on a “classroom hike” to discover the fascinating world of mammals, birds, reptiles and insects. Live animals and hands-on natural objects will encourage young students to appreciate and respect living creatures while providing them with a memorable introduction to upcoming SOL concepts.

Wildlife of Virginia - Grades K-1
Science SOLs K.1 K.6 K.7 1.1 1.5
In this up close and personal introduction to Virginia wildlife, students compare living mammals, birds and reptiles to learn about their habitats, and discover some of the special adaptations they have for getting around, avoiding predators and finding food.

Growing Up Wild - Grades 1-2
Science SOLs 1.1 1.5 2.1 2.4 2.5
Follow the life cycles of animals that live nearby in the forest. As students meet a variety of live animals they discover why some animal babies don’t look like their parents, find out how these animals change during their lives and learn how they can help protect these animals’ woodland habitat.

Chain of Life - Grades 2-3
Science SOLs 2.1 2.5 2.8 3.1 3.4 3.5 3.11
Each animal’s struggle for survival makes all animals depend on each other. Through the introduction of living “links” from Tidewater food chains, students will better understand the role of green plants in food chains, learn how predators and their prey depend on one another and discover the important role that decomposers play.

Assembly Outreach Program • Grades 3-7

Amazing Animal Adaptations - Grades 3-7
Science SOLs will be custom-correlated to your grade level
Designed to reinforce multiple life science SOL concepts, this program features live animals, specimens from the museum's collections and audience participation in a memorable large group format. Students compare and contrast physical and behavioral adaptations and actively participate in activities that help them better understand how animals locate food, escape predators and overcome survival challenges every day in the wild.

Discovery Boxes

Amazing Astronomy
Real meteorites, tektite, earth rocks and minerals identical to those found on the Moon and Mars, spectrometers, lenses, mirrors, a Rive Ray box, AV materials, posters, scale model of the solar system, distance to the nearest star tape, comet balls.

Be a Tree
Collections of leaves, wood, seeds and flowers; real taxidermied mounts of bat, bird, insects and other tree-associated animals; tree products, bark rubbings and petrified wood; puppets.

Digging Dinosaurs
Real dinosaur bones, teeth and other fossils; casts of dinosaur skin, eggs and skulls; dinosaur hatching sculpture, scale models and puppets.

Incredible Insects
Insect mounts, collections, eggs and architecture; fossil insects and scale models, insect products, beekeeper hat and gloves and insect eye viewer; student microscope.

Natural History of Early Virginia
Natural items used by Virginia’s Native Americans and Jamestown settlers for survival, trade, food, jewelry, music and toys. Includes puppets, corn grinding mortar and pestle with corn to grind, artifacts, animal furs, bone/horn tools, feathers, jewelry, Native American crafts, skulls with skull key.

Shark Secrets
Real shark jaws, shark vertebrae, shark skin and fossil shark teeth; shark embryo and eggs, shark products, stingray mount, posters, puppets, student microscope.

Snakes Alive
Real snake skeleton, skull, taxidermied mount; collection of reptiles and amphibians, snake eggs, embryos, fossils and skins, reptile products, puppets and posters.

Tropical Rainforest
Museum specimens of insects, crystals, leaves and piranha; skins and feathers of endangered tropical bird species, rainforest products, scale models and puppets; posters.

Under the Bay
Museum mounts of fish, squid, skate and algae; collections of shells, crabs, corals and sea stars; scale models, posters, puppets; children’s books, reference materials and activity guides; student microscope.

All boxes include AV materials, children’s books, reference materials and activity guides.

FEE Contract Schools: $50 per week
Other Schools: $150 per week ($100 for the next consecutive week. Automatic pick-up and delivery are included.

Length of Program 45 minutes
Students 60 maximum
FEE: $250 first program, $220 per additional program - same day Fuel surcharge may apply