

Science Story Adventures



Nocturnal Explorations

Learning outcomes

» Students know different plants and animals inhabit different kinds of environments and have external features that help them thrive in different kinds of places. (Grade 1 - Life Sciences)

» Students know plants and animals have structures that serve different functions in growth, survival, and reproduction. (Grade 3 - Life Sciences)

From: California's Science Content Standards

Books we read

The Moonflower by Peter and Jean Loewer

Who Goes There? by Jennifer A. Ericsson

Activities we did

» We examined specimens from nocturnal animals and explored what characteristics they have that help them live in the dark.

» We played a nocturnal noises guessing game. (http://www.babygamer.com/online_games/free/toddler/night_animals/night_animals_00.htm)

Today's craft: Hawk Moth Puppet



You will need:

- » Moth wings template (included)
- » Pencil
- » Scissors
- » Crayons
- » 2 brown chenille sticks
- » Craft stick
- » Scotch tape

Directions:

1. Print and cut out the wings template. Use it to trace the moth wings on a brown paper bag. Cut out the wings.
2. Fold the wings in half and cut two small slits on the fold.
3. Decorate the moth wings.
4. Fold one chenille stick in half and thread it through the slits with the folded end towards the back. Spread the loose ends to make the antennae.
5. Thread the second chenille stick through the slits and curl it up for the moth's proboscis.
6. Tape a craft stick on the back of the moth, lining up the moth's body along the stick.

Want to find out more?

Here is a selection of further resources to explore in the Naturalist Center, in the public library or at home. Please ask if you can't find what you're looking for.

Books

A Book of Sleep by Il sung Na. Nat. Ctr. Juv. QL755.3 .N2 2009

Wide-eyed owl learns about how other animals sleep in this playfully illustrated book.

Keepers of the Night: Native American Stories and Nocturnal Activities for Children by Michael J. Caduto and Joseph Bruchac. Nat. Ctr. E98 .F6 C13 1994

A collection of stories and activities compiled by a renowned educator and a Native American storyteller and author.

Night Creatures by Susanne Santoro Whayne. Nat. Ctr. Juv. QL755.5 .W53

Realistic illustrations and informative text introduce the night life of various habitats.

Night Science for Kids: Exploring the World After Dark by Terry Krautwurst

Everything you want to know about becoming a night explorer, including experiments, projects and background information on nocturnal creatures.

Step Into the Night by Joanne Ryder. Nat. Ctr. Juv. PZ7 .R9752 St 1988

A young girl steps out her door as the sun goes down and imagines what it would be like to be the different animals that are active at night.

DVDs

Dinosaur Train. Dinosaurs in the Snow. Nat. Ctr. Media PN1992.77.D543 D563 2010

Hop on the train as Buddy learns about night animals in the "Night Train" episode.

The Magic School Bus Creepy Crawly Fun. Nat. Ctr. Media QC225.5 .M34 2009

Ms. Frizzle and the kids explore nocturnal animals in the "Going Batty" episode.

Websites

Butterflies & Moths of North America: Family Sphingidae
Fun facts and brilliant photographs of this amazing moth family, which includes hawk, sphinx and hummingbird moths.

<http://www.butterfliesandmoths.org/taxonomy/Sphingidae>

Plants in Motion: Moon Flower

A time-lapse video shows a moon flower blooming.

<http://plantsinmotion.bio.indiana.edu/plantmotion/flowers/moonflower/moon.html>

United States Nightjar Survey Network

A citizen science project developed by the Center for Conservation Biology to learn more about this elusive group of nocturnal birds.

<http://www.ccb-wm.org/nightjars.htm>

Moth Wings Template

