



# Lutz Children's Museum Teacher Newsletter

**The Lutz Children's Museum** offers engaging science, art, and history education experiences to students across the state of Connecticut. We stay true to our founder, Hazel Lutz, and her vision by providing hands-on learning opportunities that prepare students for academic success. Our Connecticut standards-based programs make learning a positive experience for children as they explore natural artifacts and meet live animals. Enjoy programs as a field trip to the LCM, visit the trails of Oak Grove Nature Center, or a museum educator will bring the excitement and knowledge right into your classroom!

## Outreach Resource Lessons

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An experienced museum educator will lead your classroom in fun and educational activities while utilizing live animals, artifacts, and experiential games. Outreach programs are also available as an after school enrichment program or a booth-style program.

Science and history programs are 45 minutes in length; 1.5 hours when booked with a lab component.

Arts programs are 60 minutes.

*The Cost: \$125 per 45/60 minute program and 60¢ per mile of travel. \$200 when booked with a lab component.*

## Plan A Field Trip

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Visiting the museum is a fun and educational field trip! Come explore our newest exhibit: Connecticut Forests, stroll around 1940s Main Street Manchester, experience 19th Century Manchester Farm Life, or discover our live animal collection. Increase the educational value of your trip by adding an engaging and informative program taught by a museum educator. Visit for a few hours or stay the whole day! Programs are available to be taught at Oak Grove Nature Center seasonally.

*The Cost: \$7 per person for a self-guided field trip. \$12 per person for a field trip with programming.*

## Educational Standards

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All Lutz Children's Museum programs meet performance standards in Connecticut's K-12 Curriculum Framework. This includes Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), the Social Studies Content Standards (SSCS), English Language Arts (ELA), Common Core State Standards for Math (CCSSM), National Core Visual Art Standards (VA) and National Core Music Art Standards (MA). Specific content standards, and grade-level expectations, are indicated within each program description. Please contact us if you would like more information about how individual programs meet these standards.

## Booking Your Program

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Outreach programs and field trips can be scheduled by contacting museum staff at **(860) 643-0949 x 30951** or by sending an email to [frontdesk@lutzmuseum.org](mailto:frontdesk@lutzmuseum.org). When leaving a message please provide as much detail as possible including a contact name, phone number, email, school name, age/grade, and requested visitation date. Our educators are often out on programs, but will respond within two business days. Please include a way to reach you after school hours. Our programs fill quickly, book your field trip or outreach program at least two months in advance for the best availability.

## Lutz Up!

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Our quarterly newsletter is distributed through many school districts with permission of your superintendent. Each newsletter is packed with educational classes, concerts, trips, and special events. We count on teachers to unroll the bundle and promptly distribute it into student's backpacks. **Thanks for your help!**

# Science Programs

## **Animal Classification: Grades K-5**

Earth is home to over a million species of animals! Discover the characteristics that group these animals together then compare their differences. Students will enjoy skeletons, furs, feathers, and so much more. Younger grades will focus on identifying groups of animals. Higher grades will focus on levels of the taxonomic tree.

*Grade K: LS1.C, ESS3.A; Grade 1: LS1.A, LS1.B, LS3.A, LS3.B; Grade 2: LS4.D; Grade 3: LS3.A, LS3.B, LS4.B*

## **Beak Speak: Grades K-5**

Beaks are a bird's number one tool for eating, protection, and preening. To get the job done, these beaks need to be built in different shapes, sizes, and colors. Feet are no different, and provide insight on where that animal lives. Let's take a close look at some of these unique features and see how exactly form relates to function.

*Grade K: LS1.C; Grade 1: LS1.A, LS3.A, LS3.B; Grade 2: LS4.D; Grade 3: LS3.A, LS3.B, LS4.C, LS4.D; Grade 4: LS1.A, LS1.C*

## **Camouflage, Shells, and Spikes – Oh My!: Grades K-3**

The wild is full of challenges. Not only must animals find food, water, shelter, but they have to be able to defend themselves from predators. It's a good thing many animals have adaptations to do just this! Camouflage keeps them hidden while spikes and bright colors scare predators away. Students will discover how animals use their body coverings when playing defense.

*Grade K: LS1.C; Grade 1: LS1.A, LS1.D; Grade 2: LS4.D; Grade 3: LS4.C*

## **Dynamic Ecosystems: Grades 3-5**

Earth is connected and impacted on varying levels through chain reactions. Communities of organisms often rely on each other for survival against abiotic and biotic components of the environment. As a class, students will explore the relationship between populations, limiting factors, and carrying capacity through experimentation and math.

*Grade 3: LS1.B, LS2.C, LS2.D, LS4.D; Grade 4: LS1.A*

## **Food Web Explorers: Grades K, 3-5**

From the energy provided by the sun to the apex predators at the top of the food web, we will learn how energy flows through this system. Topics such as decomposers, producers, and consumers will be discussed as well as what is not biodegradable in an ecosystem.

*Grade K: LS1.C; Grade 3: LS2.C, LS2.D; Grade 5: PS3.D, LS1.C, LS2.A*

## **Jaws and Claws: Grades 3-5**

Bare bones give scientists an inside look on how form relates to function. Students will learn to examine the skulls of common Connecticut animals to discover that animal's particular role in the food-web. Using features such as teeth, orbits, ear bulbs, and nasal passages students will tell the animal's story on how they lived, hunted or obtained food, what senses it relied on, and whether it was a predator or prey.

*Grade 3: LS3.B, LS4.B, LS4.C; Grade 4: LS1.A, LS1.D*

## **Life Cycle Exploration: Grades 1-4**

From tadpoles to frogs, caterpillars to butterflies, and seeds to sprouts, every living thing changes as it grows. In this series, two options are available based on teacher and classroom needs. A lesson surrounding metamorphosis will allow students to explore the life cycles of amphibians and insects (recommended for grades 1-4). A lesson surrounding seeds and sprouts will allow students to explore what plants need for germination, growth, and seed dispersal (recommended for grades 2-4).

**Metamorphosis** — *Grade K: LS1.C, ESS3.A; Grade 1: LS1.A, LS1.B; Grade 3: LS1.B; Grade 4: LS1.A*

**Roots and Shoots** — *Grade 1: LS1.A, LS1.B, LS3.A; Grade 2: LS2.A; Grade 3: LS1.B; Grade 4: LS1.A*

## **Overflowing Ecosystems: Grades K-3**

Just how many plants and animals can one ecosystem handle? An ecosystem's carrying capacity is constantly changing, but what factors are causing this change? We will learn how to define an ecosystem's carrying capacity as well as how humans can alter the balance of an ecosystem. Ecosystems have the necessities of life. What do you think happens when too many plants and animals are living among on another?

*Grade K: LS1.C; Grade 1: LS1.A, LS1.A; Grade 2: LS4.D; Grade 3: LS2.C, LS2.D, LS4.C, LS4.D*

## **Track That Animal: Grades K-3**

The world right outside our window has a big story to tell. Animals leave behind messages revealing their activities. Students will learn to "read" nature stories by looking for the evidence left behind by common Connecticut species. Evidence of an animal's presence teaches us how well an animal survives in its habitat. From caves to trees, an animal's home needs to provide food, water, and shelter for survival.

*Grade K: LS1.C, ESS2.E, ESS3.A; Grade 1: LS1.A, LS1.B; Grade 2: LS4.D; Grade 3: LS2.C, LS2.D*

# Humanities Programs

## **Creative Writing – Haiku: Grades 3-5**

Take a trip to Japan without ever leaving the classroom! Students will be introduced to three native Japanese animals and, by using math, students will successfully count out syllables to create the perfect haiku. Using art mediums, students will then create a watercolor illustration depicting a haiku that they have created as a class.

*ELA: Grade 3: RF.3.3c, SL.3.2, SL.3.1; Grade 4: RF.4.3a, RL.4.5, RL.4.7, SL.4.1; Grade 5: RL.5.7, RF.5.3a, SL.5.1; VA: Grade 3: Cr1.1.3a, Cr2.2.3a, Re.7.2.3a; Grade 4: Cr2.1.4a, Cr2.2.4a, Re.7.1.4a, Re.7.2.4a, Re8.1.4a; Grade 5: Cr2.2.5a, Re.7.1.5a, Re8.1.5a*

## **Eric Carle’s Creations: The Very Hungry Caterpillar: Grades K-2**

Read, Learn, Touch, and Create! Learn about author and illustrator Eric Carle. Read his book *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*. Discuss the monarch butterfly and see butterfly artifacts from the LCM’s Science Collection. Create your own colorful butterfly using Eric Carle’s collage technique.

*NGSS: Grade K: LS1.C, ESS3.A; Grade 1: LS1.A, LS1.B; Grade 2: LS4.D; VA: Grade K: Cr1.2.Ka, Cr2.1.Ka; Grade 1: Cr3.1.1a, Cr2.1.1a, Cr3.1.1a, Re.7.2.1a; Grade 2: Cr2.1.2a, Cr2.3.2a, Cr3.1.2a*

## **Measure My Actual Size Traveling Exhibit: Grades K-5**

Artifacts, rulers, tape measures, rolls of paper, and drawing utensils will turn the classroom into a collaborative environment as students discover, measure, and visually replicate artifacts from the Lutz Museum’s Natural History Collection. We will bring over 20 artifacts including whale’s tooth, snakeskin, skunk tail, armadillo shell, wolf pelt, bat, insects, spider, pinecone, bird’s nest, frog, coral and puffer fish. Students will understand the purpose of a museum and have a lesson in artifact handling. Based on the book, *Actual Size*, by Steve Jenkins.

*NGSS: Grade K: K.MD.1, K.MD.2; Grade 1: 1.MD.1, 1.MD.2; Grade 2: 2.MD.1, 2.MD.2, 2.MD.3, 2.MD.4; Grade 3: 3.MD.6; VA: Grade 1: Cr1.2.1a, Pr4.1.1a, Pr6.1.1a; Grade 2: Re.7.1.2a; Grade 3: Cr3.1.3a; Grade 4: Cr3.1.4a; Grade 5: Cr2.2.5a, Pr4.1.5a, Pr6.1.5a*

## **Monet’s Pond Life: Grades K-5**

Claude Monet painted his pond more than 250 times during his career! He painted during all seasons and under all kinds of weather. We will look at a dozen of Monet’s pond paintings while discussing his colors and brushstrokes. Using watercolors, students will make their own impressionist pond painting. Students will be able to touch many pond-life artifacts from the museum’s collection, including a live animal.

*CCSSM: Grade K: CC.1, CC.2; Grade 1: NBT.1; SSCS: 1.5; NGSS: Grade K: LS1.C, ESS3.A; Grade 1: LS1.A, LS2.A, LS2.D; Grade 4: LS1.C; VA: Grade K: Cr3.1.Ka, Re8.1.Ka; Grade 1: Cr2.2.1a, Re.7.2.1a; Grade 2: Re8.1.2a, Cn11.1.2a; Grade 3: Re7.1.3a, Re7.2.3a; Grade 4: Re7.1.4a, CR2.2.4a; Grade 5: Re7.1.5a*

## **Music Math Libs: Grades K-3**

Create an original music composition using mathematical techniques! Students will reinforce their understanding of basic addition and subtraction by exploring different rhythmic and melodic motifs. Once the melody has been written, students will incorporate their own words to each note and become the author of an original story.

*ELA: Grade K: W.K.2, W.K.3; Grade 1: W.1.2, 1.3; Grade 2: W.2.1, W.2.3, W.2.5; Grade 3: W.3.3, W.3.5; MA: Grade K: CR1.1.K, CR2.1.K, CR3.1.K; Grade 1: CR1.1.1, CR3.1.1; Grade 2: CR1.1.2, CR2.1.2, CR3.1.2, CR3.2.2; Grade 3: CR1.1.1, CR2.1.3, CR3.1.3, CR3.2.3; CCSSM: Grade K: OA.1, OA.3- 5; Grade 1: OA.1, OA.5, OA.7; Grade 2: OA.1, OA.2; Grade 3: OA.3*

## **My Own Connecticut Tree Identification Book: Grades 1-5**

Connecticut is almost 60% covered by forests. Even our urban areas are populated with trees! This program brings artifacts from 10 native trees and seedlings into the classroom for observation. Each student will use the art process of frottage (rubblings) to capture the leaves and bark from one of the 10 stations as well as collage to personalize the book with examples of how trees are an integral part of the ecosystem. Books can be finished, copied, and shared as a classroom research project.

*NGSS: Grade 1: LS3-1; Grade 2: LS2.a; Grade 3: LS1-1; Grade 5: LS2-1; VA: Grade 1: Cr2.3.1a, Cr2.1.1a; Grade 2: Cr1.2.2a; Grade 3: Cn10.1.3a; Grade 5: Cr1.1.5a*

***(...more humanities programs on next page)***

# **Humanities Programs (continued)**

## **Podunks of Manchester: Grades K-5**

The Podunk Tribe lived in Manchester over 400 years ago. Together, we'll travel back in time to learn about the Native American Tribe and culture. Students will have a chance to study maps and touch artifacts as we compare life in the 1600s today.

*SSCS: Grade 1: 1.2, 1.4, 1.6, 1.13; Grade 2: 2.1, 2.4*

## **School Days of Long Ago: Grades 1-5**

What better way to celebrate the 100th day of school than to learn about what school was like 100 years ago. Students will compare and contrast modern and historic methods of discipline and teaching, as well as subjects of study. We'll even try out a quick lesson or two! This class is taught by a costumed interpreter.

*SSCS: Grade 1: 1.1, 1.0, 1.12; Grade 2: 2.4; Grade 3: 3.3*

## **Songs of Our Past: Grades K-3**

For thousands of years, songs have been sung to convey stories. It is time to learn a little bit of our own story by learning the history of Manchester, and Connecticut as a whole, through music! Students will perform an original song as a class and discover how their own emotions, facial expressions, and volume contribute to the feeling of a performance.

*ELA: Grade K: RI.K.1-3; Grade 1: RI.1.1-4, RI.1.7, RI.1.10; Grade 2: RI.2.1, RI.2.3, RI.2.4, RI.2.10; Grade 3: RI.3.1-5, RI.3.10; CCSC: Grade K: K.1, K.2, K.8; Grade 1: 1.-3, 1.8; Grade 2: 2.1-5, 2.9, 2.10; Grade 3: 3.1; MA: Grade K: Pr4.2.K, Pr4.3.K, Pr6.1.K, Re7.2.K, Re8.1.K, Re9.1.K; Grade 1: Pr4.2.1, Pr4.3.1, Pr6.1.1, Re7.2.1, Re8.1.1, Re9.1.1; Grade 2: Pr4.1.2, Pr4.2.2, Pr6.1.2, Re7.2.2, Re8.1.2*

## **Storytelling Rocks: Sedimentary, Metamorphic, and Igneous: Grades K-4**

Touch, examine, and classify rocks from the museum's natural history collection. Students will then color and glue small pictures onto rocks creating a set of storytelling rocks for the classroom! Pictures will depict nouns, pronouns, verbs, adverbs and adjectives as well as transitional words. Storytelling Rocks are great from imaginative writing prompts, illustrations, collaborative storytelling, listening skills, sound recognition, and more.

*NGSS: Grade 2: PS1-1; Grade 4: ESS1-1; ELA: Grade K: SL.K.1, W.K.3, W.K.5; Grade 1: SL.1.1a, SL.1.3, W.1.3, W.1.5; Grade 2: SL.2.3; Grade 3: L.3.1a, L.3.1e; Grade 4: SL.4.1B, SL.4.3, W.4.3c; VA: Grade K: Cn10.1.Ka; Grade 1: Cr2.3.1a, Re.7.1.1a; Grade 2: Cr2.3.2a; Grade 3: Pr6.1.3a; Grade 4: Cr1.2.4a, Cr2.2.4a*

## **The Art of Pop Up Books: Grades 3-5**

Explore dozens of Pop Up Books by different authors and illustrators. Using paper, glue, and scissors, students will reverse engineer their own pop up cards from premade samples. Envelopes and stamps will be provided to send the cards in the mail. This is a project to write home about!

*NGSS: Grade 3: ETS1-1, ETS1-2; Grade 4: ETS1-1, ETS1-2; Grade 5: ETS1-1, ETS1-2; VA: Grade 3: Re.7.1.3a; Grade 4: Cr2.1.4a, Re.7.1.4a; Grade 5: Cr2.1.5a, Re.7.1.5a*

## **To Move or Not to Move: Grades 2-5**

Mrs. Chapin, a costumed interpreter from the 1800s, must decide with the help of the students whether to move with her family from a rural town to the big city. Students will learn about life in the late 1890s during the Victorian era using historical artifacts.

*SSCS: Grade 1: 1.1, 1.9, 1.10; Grade 2: 2.4; Grade 3: 3.1, 3.3*

## **Wildlife Illustration: Grades K-5**

Set out on an adventure where you will travel to a distant land and become a wildlife illustrator who observes and draws a live animal in the classroom. This storytelling adventure includes time travel, images from art history, a 16th century king, and a boat trip from Europe. Students will learn the power of observation AND fun drawing techniques.

*SSCS: 2.3, 3.2; NGSS: Grade K: LS1-1, ESS3-1, LS1.A, LS3.A; Grade 2: LS4-1, LS2.C; Grade 3: 3-LS4-4, LS4.C; Grade 4: LS1-1, LS1-2; VA: Grade 1: Cr1.2.1a, Cn:11.1.1a; Grade 2: Cn:11.1.2a; Grade 3: Cr3.1.3a, Cn10.1.3a; Grade 4: Re.7.1.4a; Grade 5: Cr2.3.5a*