

## WAYFINDER The Needs of Living Things

The following North Carolina State Science Standards are relevant to this Wayfinder:

Grade 1	1.01, 1.02, 1.03
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### Introduction

Learning to observe and care for living things builds an appreciation for the importance of protecting wildlife. Understanding that animals are similar to humans in many ways helps children relate to living things and may foster a sense of responsibility toward plants and animals. The Museum houses various animals that children can observe and learn from. *Carolina Wildlife*, on the first floor of the main building, offers a peek at animals native to North Carolina including alligators, owls and a woodchuck. On your way to the *Magic Wings Butterfly House*, explore the *Bayer CropScience Insectarium* to catch a glimpse of invertebrates from around the world. In the Butterfly House, watch the butterflies visit their favorite flowers, and take time to explore the plant life including rainforest trees and vines, flowering fruits and spices like guava, and dry environment adapted plants like the desert rose. Finish your visit with a trek down to *Explore the Wild* and watch black bears, red wolves and two lemur species interact with their environments.

### Before your visit

Discuss the needs of plants with your students and begin growing some plants in your classroom. To emphasize that plants need air, water, light and space to grow, experiment with and observe the effects of limiting factors on plant growth: What happens when you plant four seeds together? What happens if you grow a plant in a closet? What happens when you don't water a plant? What happens if you try to grow a plant in a plastic bag?

If you own a classroom animal and are not already doing so, discuss with your students what your animal needs to live. How is this similar or different to what humans need to live? Assign duties to students that involve taking care of your pet.

Cut out pictures of various animals, including a picture of a human, and have students sort them into their own categories. Challenge them to come up with several ways to categorize the pictures. Use this activity to spark conversation about human similarities to other animals.

### During your visit

Visit *Carolina Wildlife* on the first floor of the Museum. Ask the following questions about the following animals.

- 1) Look at the alligators. Are they in or out of the water? If they are in the water, do they breathe underwater, or do they come up for air? What do we (humans) do? *Like mammals, reptiles have lungs and need to breathe air. Unlike humans, alligators can stay underwater for about 20-30 minutes.*
- 2) Look into the muskrat enclosure. Can you see any food in the case? What kind of food do you see? What food do you see that you would eat, too?

- 3) Find the box turtle. Is there anything in the cage with the turtle that you also would need to survive? *Water is the most obvious answer, but humans also need space and places to hide to get away from a crowd!*
- 4) Find the opossum and try to catch a glimpse of his feet. Notice that each foot has a toe that sticks out much like our thumb. How might this “thumb” help the opossum? How does our thumb help us? Do opossums and humans use their thumbs for some of the same reasons?

Visit the *Magic Wings Butterfly House* and the *Bayer CropScience Insectarium*. Use the following scavenger hunt for plant and animal needs as students explore the exhibits. The first four items can be found in the Butterfly House, the remaining items on the hunt are in the Insectarium.

### **After your visit**

Discuss with students the answers from their scavenger hunts. There may be different answers for the same questions. Consider why that is as you talk about their choices.

Listen to your students tell you their favorite animal from the Museum. Pick one or two and ask these questions:

- 1) Do you know what this animal eats? Would you want to share a meal with this animal? Why or why not?
- 2) When you were at the Museum what was your animal doing? Would you have fun doing that same thing with your animal friend?
- 3) What are some things that make you very different from your favorite animal?

**Please see  
Find What a Living Thing Needs Activity on next page...**

## Find What a Living Thing Needs

Find each animal or plant.

Put an X in the box when you find each item a living thing needs.

	AIR	WATER	SPACE	LIGHT	SHELTER	FOOD
						
						
						
						
						
						
						