

The Variety Show – KS3

Please use this information to help you and your pupils get the most from your visit.



Your show

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| Show name | The Variety Show |
| Location | <i>Attenborough Studio</i> , Darwin Centre, Orange Zone. Please ensure you are ready and waiting to enter the studio 10 minutes before the start time. Unfortunately, we are unable to admit latecomers. |
| Start time | 10.30 11.30 12.30 |
| Duration | 35 minutes |
| Minimum ratio | 1 adult : 10 pupils |
| Maximum group size | 60 pupils, 6 adults Please ensure you meet the minimum adult : pupil ratio |

About the show

The show aims to excite your pupils about the diversity, complexity and beauty of life on Earth. There are engaging demonstrations involving animal specimens, large props, volunteers and lots of audience participation. Pupils will find out about species adaptations and how and why scientists classify all living organisms. They will discover how humans fit into this classification system and get the chance to do the job of our enquiries service scientists, emphasising the importance of features in the classification and identification of species.

Before your visit

A familiarity with concepts associated with variation, adaptation and classification would be beneficial, but is not essential. The show can be used as an introduction or to consolidate your teaching of these themes. Please advise the bookings team of any special needs your pupils have so we can prepare.

A note about behaviour

One of our experienced science educators will lead the show. We work to make it an inspiring and inclusive experience for all pupils and we rarely have problems with behaviour. However, teachers have overall responsibility for the conduct of their pupils and we expect you to support us with this where necessary. Pupils benefit significantly when teachers and accompanying adults get involved, so please do join in where appropriate. We would be particularly grateful for teacher assistance collecting our 3D glasses at the end of the show.

Health and Safety

We advise pupils to wash their hands after handling specimens. Please assist staff when seating pupils in the Attenborough Studio. Please be aware that handheld devices are located in seat armrests and attached via a cable. To avoid trip hazards, please ensure pupils return their devices to the housing before leaving the studio.

Learning objectives

- to inspire a sense of amazement and wonder for the diversity of life on Earth
- to understand the species have adaptations that are advantageous for survival
- to understand how and why scientists classify species, and how humans fit into this
- to understand that knowing about species features enables scientists to classify and identify species

National Curriculum links

This activity's content falls within the following statements, but does not necessarily support the breadth of content to which the statement refers.

Science

Key Stage 3

Genetics and evolution

Inheritance, chromosomes, DNA and genes

To understand:

- differences between species
- the variation between species and between individuals of the same species means some organisms compete more successfully, which can drive natural selection