

ANIMAL ENCOUNTERS

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Amazing Arthropods (bugs) Program for Schools

Are your students studying insects, arachnids, invertebrates, lifecycles, or anything else having to do with the wonderful world of arthropods? Then this is the program for you! Students will learn about adaptations, exoskeletons, defense mechanisms, and more. Program can be modified to suit any grade level and typically runs 60 minutes (can be extended as needed). We can provide up to 3 programs back-to-back as needed.

Program animals include:

Arachnids

African Flat Rock Scorpion- This is the longest scorpion in the world. Watch as this gentle giant fluoresces a bright emerald green under black light.

Giant Desert Hairy Scorpion- This fellow glows a lime green and is covered with hairs that act like a cat's whiskers!

Rose Hair Tarantula- Rosie is a beautiful specimen from Chile. Think of her as an 8 legged kitten! Her defense is that she has urticating hairs (can provoke itching), so we don't allow kids to handle her.

Giant Vinegaroon- Vinnie is a large arachnid that resembles a scorpion but is completely harmless. His defense is that he can emit a little bit of a vinegar-like substance to make himself unappealing as a meal.

Tailless Whip scorpion- These cave dwelling creatures from Tanzania look as if they are from another planet. Flat bodies designed to fit into cracks in rocks, long sensing legs that are used for seeing, tasting and smelling, and large yet harmless feeding appendages are fascinating to observe.

Insects

Roaches! We have **Madagascar Hissing Cockroaches**. These are truly amazing insects that are well adapted to their environments and can be handled easily. Students love touching them and hearing the "hiss!"

Blue Death Feigning Beetles- These comical little blue insects fall over and curl up their legs as if dead when disturbed. Then come back to life in front of your eyes. Always a crowd favorite.

Other Arthropods

Giant Vietnamese Centipede- Belinda is a huge, ferocious hunter and a great example of why centipedes are such amazing predators. Her body demonstrates unique feeding mouth parts, and one set of legs per body segment.

Giant African Millipede- 10 inches long! Millipedes are amazing animals. With two sets of legs per body segment, they are designed for climbing and burrowing to find the plants that they eat. Gentle and a little tickly, our millipedes are really fun to hold and watch. Their defense is that they taste horrible to predators!

We also usually have a variety of other millipedes from around the world to interact with as well!

Notes:

- We reserve the right to modify program(s) at any time without notice. Depending on class size, available time, animal well-being or other factors, certain animals may not be available.
- Animal Encounters is a USDA licensed animal exhibitor and is fully insured.