

How to Read a Skull Like an Open Book

Rangers in the Classroom—Post-visit Lesson Plan



Grade Level: 3rd

Setting: Classroom

Duration: 10 min

Standards Addressed:

° English Reading:
1.1,1.2,1.5,1.6,2.7

Introduction:

Thank you for joining us on an exciting adventure into the world of animal senses and hunting adaptations with our How to Read a Skull Like an Open Book program. We created this post-visit activity to review, reinforce and enrich your students' understanding of how animal skulls tell us what animals eat and what senses they rely on for finding food. Please refer to the program outline we provided during our visit to your class for additional sources of information. We hope you enjoyed the ranger visit and invite us back soon. Have fun!

Materials:

- Print out 1 copy for overhead projection or multiple copies for each of the students.
- Optional: Overhead projector or document camera

Instructions:

1. To review and reinforce the vocabulary learned in the Skull program, have the students fill in the blanks with the words that best fit.
2. Review as a class when worksheets are complete.

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Complete each sentence with the word that best fits. (One letter per space.)

predator

canines

molars

prey

incisors

orbits

nasal passage

palate

pelt

- 1) If a bobcat kills a squirrel in Sequoia National Park, the bobcat is the _____.
- 2) At the Foothills Visitor Center, you can touch the _____ of a black bear and bobcat.
- 3) A mule deer uses its _____ in the back of its mouth to grind up the acorns it eats.
- 4) If the _____ in a skull face forward, the animal is a predator.
- 5) Coyotes have very sharp and pointy _____ that they use for holding and killing prey.
- 6) The mule deer uses its tongue to pull grass onto its _____ while its chewing to help break down its food.
- 7) The _____ of a black bear is very large, allowing it to find food easily by using its sense of smell.
- 8) When a mountain lion in Kings Canyon kills a squirrel, the squirrel is the _____.
- 9) _____ are the teeth in front of the coyote's jaw used for nipping and grooming itself.