

How to Read a Skull Like an Open Book

Rangers in the Classroom—Post-visit Lesson Plan



Grade Level: 4th

Setting: Classroom

Duration: 10—15 min

Standards Addressed:

- Reading Comprehension:
2.7
- Reading- Vocabulary and
Concept development:
1.3,1.4

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:

- Worksheets (One per student)
- Pencils

Instructions:

1. Pass out worksheets.
2. Read the directions aloud.
3. Correct and review as a class when worksheets are complete.

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Fill in the blank with the word(s) below that best fit the sentence.

predator
prey
nasal passage
carnivore

canine
incisors
palate
auditory bullae

molars
orbits
pelt

omnivore
herbivore
nocturnal

- 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 acorns.
- 4) If the _____ in a skull face forward, the animal is a predator.
- 5) Coyotes have very sharp and pointy _____ teeth used for holding and killing their prey.
- 6) The mule deer uses its tongue to push grass onto its _____ on the top of its mouth while its chewing to help break down its food.
- 7) The smell of the mountain lion entered the deer's _____ causing it to run away.
- 8) If a mountain lion in Kings Canyon National Park kills a squirrel, the squirrel is the _____.
- 9) A mule deer is a _____ since it only eats plants.
- 10) A Black Bear likes to eat meat and plants. This means it is an _____.
- 11) The mountain lion hunts for its prey from sunset to sunrise. Animals that are active during the night are called _____ animals.
- 12) A bobcat only eats meat. It is a _____.
- 13) The buzz of the insects in the old fallen log travelled through _____ inside the black bear's ear.