



# Roper Mountain Science Center

## ***Pre-Visit/Post-Visit Guide***

## ***Lesson Name: Animals of the Palmetto State***

### **Summary of Lesson:**

Through handling and closely examining a variety of live animals, students will discover ways in which these unique organisms obtain food for energy within specific South Carolina habitats.

### **South Carolina Science Standards: 3.L.5A**

### **Pre-Visit Resources**

- **Teacher/Chaperone Expectations:** Please help us by letting us know of any special accommodations for your children prior to the lesson. Your assistance with classroom management and distribution of supplies will also be greatly appreciated.
- **Instructions for Teachers:** Please report to the Harrison Hall of Science for this lesson. Students will be rotating in small groups through 6 different stations. Your instructor will meet you at the front desk and take your class to the Lab. Students will have time to wash their hands at the conclusion of the lesson.
- **Key Vocabulary:** habitat, forest, wetland, environment, energy role, herbivore, carnivore, omnivore, physical characteristics
- **Discussion questions throughout the lesson:** What are the main environments in South Carolina?  
How do animals get energy? What energy role does this animal play in the ecosystem? (herbivore, carnivore, omnivore) What physical characteristics help the animal obtain food?
- **Content Preview Video:** "South Carolina Wildlife" (4:46) features Low country wildlife of South Carolina, featuring animals sighted on the Palmetto Trail and Santee National Wildlife Refuge with the accompanying song Boondocks by Little Big Town.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SBi0FLxNTb8>

### **Post-Visit Resources**

- **Writing Prompt:** Your best friend coming to visit from the desert area of Arizona. Write a letter to your best friend about a South Carolina native animal (like the Green Tree Frog, Toad, Crayfish, etc.). Be sure to include information about its habitat, the energy role in the ecosystem (what type of eater it is), and other interesting adaptations that help it survive in South Carolina!
- **Possible Lesson Link:**
  - "Habitats Lapbook": <https://www.mrsjonescreationstation.com/interactive-lapbooks-for-the-school-year/>
- **Video Links:**
  - "Living Things Change: Crash Course Kids #41.1"  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xDSFIRunlrU> (4:36)

- Career Connections: Wildlife management careers: <http://wildlife.org/next-generation/career-development/careers/>