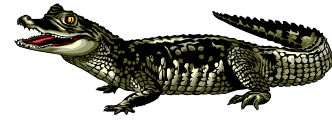


Reptiles and Trails Teacher Checklist



The excitement and adventure of an Armand Bayou Nature Center field trip begins with you! Several days before the scheduled event, please look over the checklist below. These important steps must be completed prior to our visit. We look forward to our visit with you!

The week before your trip:

- ✓ Call to confirm the number of attending students and chaperones.
- ✓ Introduce the topic of reptiles using one or more of these pre-trip activities:
 - Set up a Reptile Wonder Carousel in your room by placing a variety of reptile-related questions or activities around the room. Near each question, place some materials for students to respond to the questions: a piece of paper or sticky notes and some crayons or markers. Divide students into groups, and send a group to each question station. Give students a minute or two to read the directions and write or draw their response. When the designated time is up, have students rotate stations. Continue until students have visited each station. Some possible activities are:
 - Name (or draw) a reptile.
 - List three adjectives describing reptiles.
 - Write a sentence using the word “reptile”.
 - Name a science tool or skill you could use to learn about reptiles.
 - What is something you would like to learn about reptiles?
 - Create a reptile word wall. Some suggested words are: reptile, turtle, tortoise, alligator, crocodile, lizard, snake, scale, claw, cold-blooded, vertebrate, venom, and herpetology.
 - Discuss the different classes in the vertebrate animal kingdoms: mammals, birds, fish, amphibians and reptiles. Have students work in small groups to make posters featuring each animal class. They can cut out photos of animals from magazines, draw animals, and list characteristics of each class. When you finish, compare and contrast the animals and characteristics of the five classes.

The day before the trip:

- ✓ Remind students to wear appropriate clothing and closed-toed shoes.
- ✓ Divide your class into groups of approximately 10-15 students. (When you call to confirm, our staff will let you know how many groups you should have in all.)
- ✓ If you plan to participate in an enrichment activity, make arrangements to use cameras, prepare journals, and/or brainstorm questions. (See “During the trip” for details.)
- ✓ Prepare a check for the remainder of the balance for your field trip.
- ✓ Review the ABNC website’s field trip tips: www.abnc.org/educational-programs/field-trip-planner.html.



During the trip:

- ✓ Remind your students to be good listeners, and encourage them to be engaged in the class. Please participate in the class, as well. Students and parents will follow your example.
- ✓ To make your visit even more meaningful, you may wish to incorporate an enrichment activity into your field trip. Some ideas are:
 - Take pictures of the wildlife you see using digital cameras.
 - Write and draw about your observations. You can create your own journals or just have students make notes on a piece of paper attached to a clipboard. (If you need to borrow clipboards or pencils, let us know ahead of time.)
 - Ask questions! Since students often forget their questions in the excitement of being away from school, it is often helpful to write their questions down before the trip. You might brainstorm a class question list or may have each student write a question on a note card.

After the trip:

- ✓ Ask students to describe their favorite parts of the trip and to recall some facts they learned. Also, discuss any questions or concerns they might have.
- ✓ Distribute the ABNC post-trip handouts. We encourage you to do some of the activities as a class. (*Answers to the Match-Up: Reptiles – B,D; Both – C,F; Amphibians – A,E,G*)
- ✓ Engage students in an extension activity such as one of the following:
 - Revisit questions or topics from your pre-trip activity: add to your word wall, add to your reptile poster, or discuss responses to the Reptile Wonder Carousel. (You could even repeat the carousel activity to see how students' responses have changed.)
 - Have students write about their experiences at ABNC. If you took photos or journaled, use these as a basis for your writing. Nature is a great inspiration for descriptive writing and poem composition.
 - Make graphs and charts about reptiles and nature. Your data might include students' favorite reptiles, numbers of reptiles seen at the nature center and where you saw them (based on photos or journals), or sizes of reptiles.
 - If you're truly adventurous, obtain a reptile to be your class pet! Before you get a reptile, you may want to have students select the kind you will have. Discuss how you will care for your reptile (food, water, shelter, lighting), its life cycle, how long it lives, its size, and any other important or interesting facts. Once your reptile arrives, spend plenty of time observing it; have students record their observations in scientific journals.



Thanks for visiting Armand Bayou Nature Center!

