

Experience Boxes Currently Available at Ryerson Woods

A Good Egg

All animals start from eggs. Look at the different kinds of external eggs, including snake eggs, bird eggs, and frog eggs, and see how they differ. Pre-K through middle school.

Animal Coverings

Touch a mammal's fur, examine the different kinds of feathers on a bird's skin, and use focus cards to discuss reasons for the variety of animal coverings. This box includes lots of neat stuff! Pre-K and primary grades.

Animal Habitats: Oak

A cloth oak tree becomes the stage for hand puppets—a squirrel, woodpecker, and beetle. A fun activity that uses a scripted story line and audiotape to tell the story of an oak tree habitat. Pre-K and primary grades.

Animal Habitats: Pond

Use hand puppets—a beaver, fish, dragonfly, and frog—to learn about the pond habitat, and use an audiotape and play to learn about the lifestyles of various animals. Pre-K and primary grades.

Animal Homes

Explore the different ways that animals make their homes to avoid predators and provide safety for their young by looking at birds' nests, wasps' nests, and other insect homes. Pre-K through middle school.

Animal Tracks

Study the tracks of local animals to learn about their lifestyles. Kit includes slides and rubber stamps of footprints. These stamps are lots of fun! Pre-K to intermediate grade levels.

Aquatic Insects

Explore the life of a freshwater pond or stream with microscopes and slides. A small diorama shows insect life in the water.

Birds: Built for Flight

Touch a bird's wing, compare the weight of bird and mammal bones, and investigate a bird's skeletal structure. Find out which special features enable birds to fly. Middle school and higher.

Bite, Tear or Chew

Compare skulls of a carnivore, an herbivore, and an omnivore. Find out how teeth reveal what an animal eats. Intermediate and upper grades.

Butterflies and Moths

Compare the colorful patterns on the wings of these mounted butterflies and moths. Pre-K to intermediate grade levels.

How Seeds Travel

Learn about seed dispersal by examining a variety of different seeds, an assortment of color photographs, and a set of activity cards on seed-forming plants.

Indian Games

Play traditional games of native peoples from the Northwest Coast, the Southwest and the Plains, including a ring and pin game, dice games, and a Hopi board game.

Insects

Examine a colorful variety of insect specimens to discover the natural beauty and utility of these six-legged animals.

Trees

Examine tree stem cross sections to see annual growth patterns. Practice identifying the trees in your areas with our tree identification booklet and twig key.

Underground Adventure: Prairie

Learn about prairie soils, plants, and animals. Take a closer look at prairie birds and mammal specimens.

Underground Adventure: Science Explorers

Use the scientific method to discover the underground world around you! Includes tools used to collect specimens of soils in field research. This kit provides an excellent introduction to careers in science.

Underground Adventure: Vacant Lot

Find out about city soils and plants by using scientific tools to examine plant samples. Intermediate through upper grades.

Vamos a Comer. Let's Eat

Take a closer look at Latin American cultures by examining the plants and foods of different countries in the region.

Wild in Chicago: Urban Animals

Learn which animals live in such city environments as houses, apartments, parks, and vacant lots. You will recognize many of the insect and animal specimens from the Chicago area.

Woodland Indians Shelter

A model of a wigwam and diorama show how the Woodland people living in the Chicago area used available materials to build shelters.

Woodland Indians: Basketry, Birchbark and Weaving

See how birchbark containers were made by Woodland peoples, then examine a basket and a yarn sash.

Woodland Indians: Beadwork and Quillwork

See how porcupine quills and glass beads were used by Woodland peoples to decorate traditional birchbark boxes and beadwork.

Woodland Plants

Includes plant specimens, color slides, and a book that highlights woodland plants in Illinois. Visuals show Museum botanists doing research in the field, and an enclosed plant press let's students make their own pressed-plant specimens.