

OREGON'S AMAZING ANIMALS!



Do It Yourself Museum Activity Kit Guide

**MUSEUM
OF NATURAL
AND CULTURAL
HISTORY**



UNIVERSITY OF
OREGON

Oregon's Amazing Animals

DIY Museum Activity Kit Guide

Overview

A museum adventure to go! In 2020-2021 we proudly distributed more than 26,000 pre-packaged Museum Connection Kits, helping families in every corner of the state access hands-on learning adventures, museum-style! The bilingual English-Spanish activities from those kits are now available for free to libraries to download and create their own take home activities. The online program videos can also be accessed and shared for free.

How to Use These Resources

This guide is designed to help you create your own Museum Take Home Activity Kit for your community. From supplying all the activities pages and materials, to doing an in-person event with the activities, to simply sharing some of the resources online, there are options for every need you might have.

Suggested ways to provide activities and materials to youth and families in your community:

- **Full Size Museum Activity Kits:** Print the full Museum Activity Kit guide and supporting materials. Provide the main activity supplies needed for all the activities.
- **Individual Activity Kits:** Print the activity pages individually to be used for packing smaller take home activity kits that include one or two activities and the necessary supplies.
- **Online:** Provide families with a link for visiting the program video and finding all or some of the activities online. Activities can be downloaded and posted so they are shareable from your website or social media channels.



Oregon's Amazing Animals is made possible with support from the [Institute for Museum and Library Services](#) and the [Wayne Morse Center for Law and Politics](#).

- **In-Person Program:** Choose a few activities to do in-person onsite at your library, show the program video, and distribute one or two activities as a take-home kit for families that attend.

Tips and tricks for packing kits:

- Activity sheets and materials can be packed into 10"x13" flat paper bags or gallon size resealable bags.
- It's helpful to use smaller resealable bags for individual activity materials if you are including more than one activity in your kit.
- There are **printable bilingual bag labels** to attach to the take home activity kits. Download and print the [bilingual labels](#).
- If you want to include information about viewing the program video, the QR code fliers ([English](#) and [Spanish](#)) will direct participants to the specific video on the museum's Vimeo channel.

Activities

Listed below are the activities included in this program. Activities can be grouped together or done as stand-alone projects. The materials listed indicate what items participants will need to do the activity. You can include some of these materials in the take home activity bag and assume other items will be available for families at home. Tips and tricks for sourcing materials and packing are also listed below. All activities are available in English and Spanish.

1. Home Sweet Home

Animals live in diverse habitats, like oceans, forests, and mountains. To survive and thrive, they need a healthy environment that includes a wide variety of other living things. In this activity participants can create a habitat diorama for small animal toys.

Materials and Notes:

- Activity sheet: Download and print. ([English](#)) ([Spanish](#))
- 2 Toy animals: The activity is intended to provide two animals from different habitats. The Oregon animals depicted on the Animal Cards are from the Safari brand Animal TOOBS: Nature and Ocean. Only Oregon animals were used in the original kits, but any two animals from different habitats will work for this activity.
- 2 Animal cards: Download and print. ([bilingual](#)) These two-sided cards depict animals that live in either a forest environment or an ocean environment. You can use the animal cards provided or create your own to match the animal toys you are able provide.
- Shoeboxes or other containers



- Variety of craft and recyclable material

Tips and Tricks: Invite participants to bring in their habitat dioramas to display at the library or to take photos and post to your social media. If you cannot provide plastic animal toys, you could provide two animal cards and challenge participants to create or draw the animals and then build the habitat dioramas for those animals.

2. Duck Detective

Animal species change and adapt to their environment to improve their chance of survival. These activities show how ducks are adapted to survive in their aquatic environments, with waterproof feathers, insulation, and webbed feet.

Materials and Notes:

- Activity sheets: 2 pages. Download and print. ([English](#)) ([Spanish](#))
- Feather: This does not need to be a duck feather but do try to use feathers with both a smooth surface area and some fluffy areas.
- Pipette: Plastic pipettes can be bought online at 100-200 for less than \$10. Alternatively, a spoon can be used to drip water onto feather and cotton ball.
- 3 Cotton balls
- Cooking oil: Vegetable, canola, or olive oil will all work well, and most families will have this item at home.
- 4 Cups: Small 3–4-ounce cups work fine for this experiment.
- 2 Rubber bands
- Plastic bag: Use the same small baggie that is holding the materials.
- Water
- Clear container: Such as a medium-large clear plastic storage bin.
- Paper and pencil
- Ice cubes



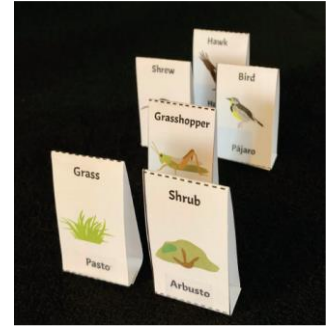
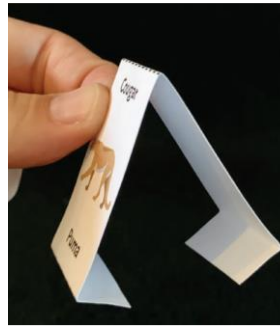
Tips and Tricks: Pack materials into the smaller resealable bag for easy distribution. For an in-person program, the Water Off a Duck's Back and Webbed Wonders activities work well and the Warm and Cozy materials could be given to participants as a take-home experiment.

3. Ecosystem Dominoes

In an ecosystem, all living things are connected and each species plays a role in making the system work. In this activity, participants can build their own food chain and food web out of paper dominos.

Materials and Notes:

- Activity sheet: Download and print. ([English](#)) ([Spanish](#))
- Ecosystem domino sheet: White cardstock is best, but dominos will still work using regular weight copy paper. Download and print. ([bilingual Dominos](#))
- Scissors
- Tape



Tips and Tricks: Print the domino sheets on heavy weight paper to help them stand up better. You can also fold the dominoes so that the blank side is showing and have participants create their own new dominoes based on other ecosystems or food chains. Make sure to draw the animals or plants onto a flat blank domino before taping the bottom together.

4. Can You Hear Me?

In these activities participants can try to “catch” and “feel” sounds like animals do with a few simple materials.

Materials and Notes:

- Activity sheet: Download and print. ([English](#)) ([Spanish](#))
- Sheet of heavy paper: Colored card stock works well.
- String or yarn (3-4 ft)
- Tape
- Metal spoon or coat hanger
- Variety of craft materials (optional): Used for extension activity to design different shaped “ears” to change how you hear sounds.



Tips and Tricks: If using as an in-person program, first have the group close their eyes and listen for sounds made from different locations around the room. Have them point in the direction they believe the sound is coming from and then open their eyes.

5. Biodiversity Scavenger Hunt – part of the “Keep on Exploring” page

A healthy environment needs biodiversity, or lots of different plants and animals. For this activity, participants can use the Biodiversity Scavenger Hunt page to explore the variety of life that exists—both outside and inside!

Materials and Notes:

- Activity sheet (Keep on Exploring page): Download and print. ([English](#)) ([Spanish](#))
- Scavenger hunt: 2 pages. Download and print. ([bilingual](#))

Tips and Tricks: If doing this activity at the library it would be helpful to provide clipboards and pencils.

6. Critter Camouflage – part of the “Keep on Exploring” page

Some animals use camouflage—matching their color, shape, or texture to their surroundings—to protect themselves from predators. In this activity participants can try their hand at camouflaging critters and hiding them around the room for others to find.



Materials and Notes:

- Activity sheet (Keep on Exploring page): Download and print. ([English](#)) ([Spanish](#))
- Critter Camo page: Download and print. ([bilingual](#))
- Crayons or colored pencils
- Scissors

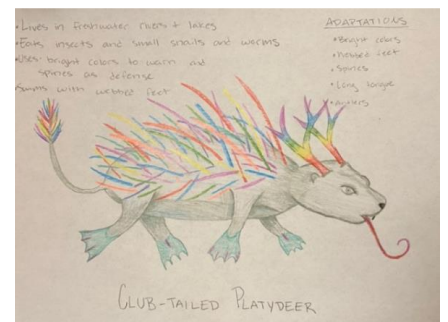
Tips and Tricks: Helpful to show a few images of animals that use camouflage in nature.

7. Imagine an Animal – part of the “Keep on Exploring” page

This activity will get the creative juices flowing as participants come up with their own new animal species. What is the animal called? What does it eat? Where does it live? How is it adapted for its environment?

Materials and Notes:

- Activity Sheet (Keep on Exploring page): Download and print. ([English](#)) ([Spanish](#))
- Paper
- Pencils and/or coloring materials



- Variety of craft materials (optional): Used for extension activity.

Tips and Tricks: This activity can also be combined with Home Sweet Home activity where participants build a habitat diorama for their animal.

8. Explore New Places – part of the “Keep on Exploring” page

This activity encourages participants to use the other resources in the library to find out more about amazing animals from all over the world.

Materials and Notes:

- Activity Sheet (Keep on Exploring page): Download and print. ([English](#)) ([Spanish](#))
- Library resources such as books, computers, etc.

Tips and Tricks: Have some animal books preselected on a table near the activities for participants to look through and/or check out.

Full Activity Guide

Includes all activity pages in one document ready to print as a full packet. Additional material pages will need to be downloaded as well.

- Download and print. ([English](#)) ([Spanish](#))

Program Video

The Oregon’s Amazing Animals activities can be accompanied by a lively video presentation featuring interviews with scientists or other experts plus an introduction to the hands-on activities.

[Oregon's Amazing Animals](#) (18 minutes)



Note: the videos were originally made to go with the take-and-make activity kits and describe the pre-packaged kits. If you are showing the video live, feel free to stop the videos at the activity kit intro part if you are not supplying the full activity kits. Also, you can make all the activities accessible to your audience by

downloading and posting the activities onto your website. Families can be directed to those resources in your program announcement.

Publicity Toolkit

The Oregon's Amazing Animals publicity toolkit includes resources you can use to promote and publicize your event, including posters, flyers, photos, videos, and more.

These downloadable resources can also be found online on the [Publicity Toolkit: Oregon's Amazing Animals](#) page.

Fillable Fliers

Add your event times and location, then print and post! (Found in the Amazing Animals Toolkit)

- [Download the English flyer](#)
- [Download the Spanish flyer](#)



QR Code Fliers

If you plan on sharing the program video with your community as an optional at-home experience, use the QR code fliers for ease of finding the video online. (Found in the Amazing Animals Toolkit)

- [Download the English flyer](#)
- [Download the Spanish flyer](#)



Social Media Templates

Use these customizable social media posts, along with any of the photos, art, or videos below, to promote your program. Feel free to add language about how and when families can pick up the take-and-make activity kits.

FACEBOOK

This winter, we're partnering with @oregonnaturalhistory to bring you "Oregon's Amazing Animals," a family program that will inspire learning and fun at home! Join us on **YOUR PROGRAM DATE** and discover the incredible variety of animal life in Oregon—both past and present—through fun, hands-on activities, and experiments. Special thanks to @USIMLS and @waynemorsecenter for their support of the program! **YOUR EVENT LINK**

INSTAGRAM

This winter, we're partnering with @mnch_uo to bring you "Oregon's Amazing Animals," a family program that will inspire learning and fun at home! Join us on **YOUR PROGRAM DATE** and discover the incredible variety of animal life in Oregon—both past and present—through fun, hands-on activities, and experiments. Special thanks to @us_imals and @waynemorsecenter for their support of the program! **YOUR EVENT LINK** #stayconnectedstaycurious #mnch #uoregon #museumfromhome

TWITTER

We're partnering with @UO_MNCH, @US_IMLS & @morsecenter to bring you "Oregon's Amazing Animals," a family program that will inspire learning and fun at home! Join us on **YOUR PROGRAM DATE** and discover animal life in Oregon—both past and present—through hands-on activities and experiments. **YOUR EVENT LINK**

After your program, share the following message along with your choice of photos. We appreciate your help spreading the word about the museum's many family-friendly resources!

FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM

Thanks for joining us for "Oregon's Amazing Animals!" We hope you enjoyed learning about animal adaptations and trying out the hands-on activities. Want to take another family-friendly museum adventure? Visit the Museum of Natural and Cultural History at mnch.uoregon.edu/museum-home. #stayconnectedstaycurious #mnch #uoregon #museumfromhome

TWITTER

Thanks for joining us for "Oregon's Amazing Animals!" We hope you enjoyed learning about animal adaptations and trying out the hands-on activities. Take your next family museum adventure at mnch.uoregon.edu/museum-home. #stayconnectedstaycurious #mnch #uoregon #museumfromhome

Video Promos



MAMMOTH FUN IS IN STORE!

Entice your audience by sharing this 23-second video highlighting the museum's favorite Ice Age mammal, the Columbian mammoth.

[Preview and download the video](#), then post it to your social media accounts.



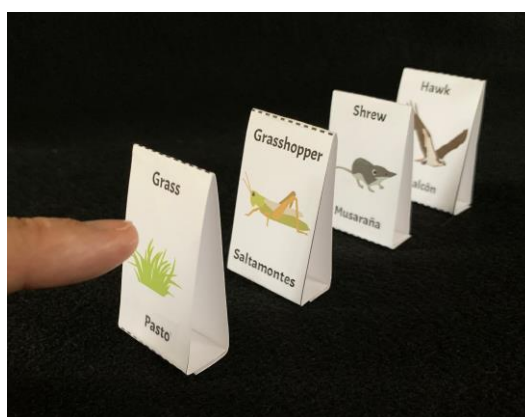
ANIMALS PAST AND PRESENT

Share this 10-second video spotlighting a few of the animals we'll learn about during the Oregon's Amazing Animals experience.

[Preview and download the video](#), then post it to your social media accounts.

Art and Photos

Use our original artwork to promote the program in your newsletters, on your website, and on social media. You can download* the artwork, as well as publicity photos of the program activities, directly from the gallery [online](#). A few examples are included below and more available online.



Additional Resources

The Museum of Natural and Cultural History's [Explore From Home / Explora desde casa](#) pages feature hands-on science and culture activities, crafts, games, and more! Pages include a variety of topics such as Ice Age animals, Oregon basketry, plants, and the Civil Rights Movement.

The Museum of Natural and Cultural History's [Little Wonders online](#) is designed for preschoolers and their adults. Together they can download activities including crafts, games, and stories.

Explore the [Vertebrate Skulls](#) online gallery from the Museum of Natural and Cultural History.

Learn more about [Wolves in Oregon](#) from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The Oregon Zoo has [animal information](#) for a variety of animals from around Oregon and beyond.

The Oregon Coast Aquarium's [Oceanscape Network](#) is an educational program for youth designed to inspire curiosity in science, nature, conservation, and outdoor exploration, while providing valuable classroom resources for educators.