

WILDSPACE GALLERY

SANDFORD
CASCADE
PROJECT

HERITAGE
FUND



FACT
Humans are very
successful predators.
We compete with other
living organisms
for space and
food.

Background Information

The Wild Space Gallery displays the variety of life. What you see here (with the exception of some of the extinct animals) are real animals. They have been preserved using taxidermy, which is the art of stuffing and mounting an animals body. They have been displayed in dioramas, which show the animals in environments to re-create their natural habitats.

This art became popular in Victorian times when trophy taxidermy became fashionable and animals were killed deliberately. Nowadays most taxidermists only use animals which have died naturally or in road kill and they are mounted as realistically as possible.

The gallery is divided up in to different sections of different parts of the world.



OBSERVATION ACTIVITY

Individually or in pairs go around and look at the different areas and themes. Look for, cold environments and different kinds of hot environments.

Regroup and together see if you can mark the different areas on the world map.



DRAWING ACTIVITY

Choose something and draw it with close attention to detail, adding tone, texture and pattern. You could decide to draw an animal, a bird or a shell. Use the drawing as a starting point for further artwork back in the classroom.



INVESTIGATION ACTIVITY

Go around and identify animals which are:

- **Predators**
- **Prey**
- **Herbivores**
- **Carnivores**

What characteristics do they have to suggest that your chosen animals fit into each category. What special features are unique to that group. E.g. A lion has sharp teeth and claws for killing. It is a carnivore and a predator.



IMAGINATION ACTIVITY

Go to the temperate forest area.

Think about what it would feel like to walk through a wood or a forest. Imagine the different sounds you would hear.

What sorts of animals and plants would you see?

What smells would you be able to smell?

What is the weather like? What is the atmosphere like?

Write a short paragraph describing your woodland walk.



DISCUSSION ACTIVITY

As a group discuss:

What is 'extinction'? What does it mean?

What is the difference between endangered and extinct.

Can you think of reasons why some creatures today are at threat from extinction?

Think about causes such as:

- **Human population**
- **Habitat destruction**
- **Hunting**
- **Pollution**
- **Introduced species**

Discuss why these animals are endangered:

- **Polar Bear**
- **British hedgehog**
- **Red squirrel**