

Overview – *Who Am I* is an introduction to classification. Students explore the 'what', 'why' and 'how' of animal coverings through a hands on investigation of a mystery animal, as well as close encounters. In this education experience students make decisions about grouping animals using external features. An understanding of classification gives them a better appreciation of biodiversity within animal groups.

Lesson Logistics – This session will take place in one of our indoor education experience spaces. Unless individual students require support you are most welcome to use this time to give your adult leaders a break as long as you have at least one member of staff with the group. If adult leaders would like to stay for the session and we have the room, they are most welcome.

Duration – 45 minutes



Conservation Message – There is an amazing variety of living things around us and classification helps us understand more about them and what we can do to help.

Links to the Australian Curriculum

	Science Understanding Biological Science	Science as a Human Endeavour	Science Inquiry Skills
Pre-Primary		Science involves observing, asking questions about, and describing changes in, objects and event (ACSHE013; ACSHE021; ACSSHE034) .	Pose and respond to questions, and make predictions about familiar objects and events (AC SIS014; AC SIS024; AC SIS037) .
Year 1	Living things have a variety of external features (ACSSU017) .	People use science in their daily lives, including when caring for their environment and living things (ACSHE022; ACSHE035) .	Participate in guided investigations to explore and answer questions (AC SIS011; AC SIS025; AC SIS038) .
Year 2		Science involves making predictions and describing patterns and relationships (ACSHE050) .	Use a range of methods to sort information, including drawings and provided tables (AC SIS027; AC SIS040) . Compare observations with those of others (AC SIS012; AC SIS213; AC SIS041) .
Year 3	Living things can be grouped on the basis of observable features and can be distinguished from non-living things (ACSSU044) .	Science knowledge helps people to understand the effect of their actions (ACSHE051) .	



Before Your Zoo Visit

It would be very useful to consider the following topics prior to your *Who Am I* Zoo education experience.

Engage students by looking at different ways to classify by grouping different things with similar attributes together. You could start with non-living objects and progress towards living things. Stimulate discussion on what your students already know about animals and their coverings and what they would still like to discover.

Expose students to the five vertebrate groups – mammals, reptiles, birds, amphibians and fish and their unique coverings.



Be sure to visit the Perth Zoo website for the most up-to-date student activities to support your education experience. Follow the links to Schools/Kindy to Year 3. Feel free to photocopy these for your visit to the Zoo. It is a great idea to bring along a camera for the day so you have images that you can use for activities when you return to school.

Back at School

The *Who Am I* experience provides a basic introduction to classification. To offer your students an opportunity to elaborate on their experience, you might like to explore the following with your class:

Immersion – Provide as many practical, hands-on experiences for your students as possible. Consider creating a collage of animal coverings using a variety of materials to simulate feathers, fur, scales and skin. Encourage your students to bring treasures of nature that they have found to school. Why not create your own mystery creature for students to classify based on the covering?

Wild with Words – Use photos/images of different animal coverings as a stimulus for the students to brainstorm adjectives that could be used to describe the animal covering. You could then explore nouns for the names of specific animals and verbs for how each animal moves. Create a working wall of words in your class for the students to use every day!

Animal Detectives – Explore the animals that live in your local community. What animal groups do they belong to? What can your detectives do to make the school community the best home for wildlife?

Animal Imagination – Take your favourite features and characteristics from a variety of animals and create a new species. Draw and describe it to others to draw.

Love Your Local Wildlife – Request a poster pack from the Perth Zoo website following the links: Schools/Classroom Resources, to display in your classroom and maybe even adopt an animal as a class!

