



DALLAS ARBORETUM

Education

Garden STEM at Home
Interview a Spider



WE GROW MINDS, TOO.

INTERVIEW A SPIDER



OBJECTIVE:

STUDENTS WILL GENERALIZE THE DIVERSITY OF WILDLIFE SIZES, FORMS, COLORS AND ADAPTATIONS, AS WELL AS BECOME FAMILIAR WITH SEVERAL SPECIES OF NATIVE WILDLIFE.

SOURCE

Project WILD K-12 Curriculum & Activity Guide

BACKGROUND

Most people think of mammals and birds as wildlife, but wildlife also includes an incredible diversity of fish, reptiles, amphibians, insects, spiders, worms and other invertebrates. Focusing on some of these overlooked groups of wildlife, will help students understand and appreciate conservation on a habitat or ecosystem level.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Explain to students that they will take on the role of reporter for Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, and their assignment is to interview wildlife species for a web series or podcast.
2. Ask students to brainstorm a list of native wildlife. Once students have identified the most common (mammals and birds), ask them to explore TPWD Wildlife Fact Sheets to add additional species to the list.
3. Ensure that the list includes many different types of wildlife.
4. Develop a plan for researching, interviewing and reporting based on the time you have to complete the project.
5. Some essential questions include: (1) What kind of animal are you? (2) What do you eat and how to you find your food? (3) Where do you live? What is your habitat like? (4) Describe something special about you. (5) What is something most people don't know about you? (6) How can people - especially kids - help you survive?
6. Optional extensions: make a video recording of the interview with a student in costume as the animal and/or create a food web from each species in the interview/podcast series.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Project WILD First Impressions STEM Connections:

<https://www.fishwildlife.org/projectwild/step-stem-and-wild-work/interview-spider>

TPWD Wildlife Fact Sheets:

<https://tpwd.texas.gov/huntwild/wild/species/>