

School Workshops



Crime Scene Investigators: The Science Behind the Mystery

Grades 3 – 6

Explore the basics of forensic science with a firsthand look at what goes on behind an investigation. Students learn how the scientific method guides the work of forensic scientists by observing and gathering data, and predicting or hypothesizing an outcome. They learn about Locard's Principal of Exchange, the principal upon which all evidence collection is based. If your students have ever wondered what it's like to analyze evidence under a microscope, now's their chance! From fingerprint analysis to scientific evidence testing, students will walk away understanding more about what goes on behind the caution tape. *Supported by funding from the Indiana Academy of Science*

Day of the Dead Student Workshop

Grades K – 12

Available Oct. 17 – 21; Oct. 24 – 28; Oct. 31 - Nov. 2

Celebrate the Mexican holiday of Day of the Dead while learning about the symbolism behind this vibrant festival which melds ancient Aztec and Catholic beliefs. Students will recreate many of the traditional Day of the Dead crafts such as sugar skulls, printmaking and calacas. Students will also explore our exhibition of *ofrendas*, or altars created by local artists, schools and organizations. Activities will vary depending on age of school group.

Diggin' Archaeology

Grades 3 – 6

Archaeology is a lot more than just digging for cool stuff and knowing history. It involves researching, mapping, note taking, observing, developing inferences and communicating your findings. Let us turn your class into archaeologists and have them explore our indoor site and see how archaeologists use broken objects from the past to learn about people and their cultures. *Supported by funding from the Indiana Academy of Science*

Fossils

Grades 3 – 8

What is at least 10,000 years old and once was a living thing? Was our pyrite sand dollar created by permineralization or replacement? Your students will have the answers to these questions and more as we explore Indiana's fossil past. Students will learn nature's methods for preserving ancient trilobites, crinoids, mastodons and ferns. They will test their skills at fossil identification and will take their new knowledge into the museum and explore the fossils on display. *Supported by funding from the Indiana Academy of Science*

Indiana and the Civil War

Grades 3 – 8

Bring your students to enlist in the 11th Indiana Infantry at the beginning of the Civil War in 1861. Students will experience marching drills, touch and see reproduction items similar to those used by enlistees during the war and learn how amputation may have saved many lives while disease killed so many more.

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On Expedition — Observing the Natural World

Grades K - 8

For many 19th and early 20th century scientists, the skill of observation was one of the most important keys to science. This is still true today as scientists continue to explore new frontiers on Earth and throughout the universe. Students discover species from a strange new land while learning how observation and record keeping fit within the scientific process. Their powers of observation and record keeping will be put to the test as they communicate their findings with fellow “scientists.” Can students clearly present their observations to their colleagues — or will someone else scoop their discovery? *Supported by funding from the Indiana Academy of Science*

Pioneer Indiana

Grades 3 – 8

Sleep tight, don't let the bed bugs bit. How many times have children heard that saying? In this workshop, they will learn where that saying came from and more! Students are introduced to aspects of daily life for pioneer families during the early 1800s in Indiana. Activities highlight the responsibilities of pioneer children in the home and school, toys and pioneer medicine.

Rocks and Minerals

Grades 3 – 8

What's the difference between a rock and a mineral? Become a geologist and find out! Students will conduct experiments to discover the differences between rocks and minerals, and identify and classify them. *Supported by funding from the Indiana Academy of Science*

Underground Railroad

Grades 3 – 8

Learn about the cause and effect of slavery and the creation of the Underground Railroad. Experience the escaping slaves' challenges and about those who helped and hurt their journey to freedom. Meet [Levi Coffin](#) and learn about his efforts to assist freedom seekers who journeyed through Indiana. During hands-on activities, students investigate the routes of the Underground Railroad and the perils of the journey while learning terms and individuals associated with it.

Earth/Sky

Grades 3-8

Weather can be beautiful and it can be deadly, but we depend on it. Students will see how weather is connected to life on Earth through experiments and be introduced to concepts such as photosynthesis, climate, habitat and more. *Supported by funding from the Indiana Academy of Science*

Shake It Out

Grades 3 – 7

What is an earthquake and what do we do when one strikes? Do we have earthquakes in Indiana? Learn what an earthquake is, how they work, how they have impacted Indiana, the earth and our society. *Supported by funding from the Indiana Academy of Science*

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Science of Sports

Grades 3 – 8

How does a skateboarder complete mid-air maneuvers, a basketball player sink a perfect three-pointer or a baseball player throw a perfect curveball? Physics! In this 90 – minute workshop, participants will learn the science behind sports including how to demonstrate friction, gravity, force and simple machines. *Supported by funding from the Indiana Academy of Science*

Wild Indiana

Grades 3 – 8

Students will explore Indiana's native plants, animals, trees, and insects through the three primary natural regions found in the Hoosier state. Along with learning about the flora and fauna of Indiana, students will learn about food webs, invasive exotic species and their effect on native species, and how our natural regions are changing. This hands on and immersive workshop allows students to learn about the natural world found here in Indiana. Supported by funding from the Indiana Academy of Science

