FERNBANK FOREST TOUR

Level: Grades 3-12  
Length: 90 minutes

This is an outdoor program. In the event of inclement weather, alternative programs may be offered if available.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION
Students will gain a better understanding of the interconnected Piedmont forest ecosystem and the importance of native biodiversity during a guided interpretive tour of Fernbank Forest. Participants will see first-hand the ecology and characteristics of this old-growth forest while developing an appreciation for the natural world.

CURRICULUM CORRELATIONS
Students will:
1. Understand the role of water and human activity on earth’s surface. S6E3, S6E5, SES3, SES4, SES6
2. Examine the dependence of organisms on each other and their environments, including human impacts. S7L4, SB5, SEV4
3. Describe the flow of energy and changes in Earth’s ecosystems. SEV1, SEV2

ESSENTIAL QUESTION
How and why do organisms interact with each other and their environment?

PROGRAM VOCABULARY
Biodiversity  
Community  
Ecosystem  
Invasive Species  
Old-Growth

ASSOCIATED VOCABULARY
Abiotic / Non-Living  
Consumer  
Producer
Biotic/Living  
Decomposer

PRE-VISIT ACTIVITIES
Review vocabulary with students. Have each student investigate a 1m x 1m area in your schoolyard and record the living things found in the space. Compare observations, noting similarities and differences among the species students found in different areas.

AT THE MUSEUM
Be sure to visit *A Walk Through Time in Georgia* and have students search each diorama for animals which live in the Piedmont forests of Georgia. Also explore a Piedmont forest from tree-height at Adventure Outpost and along the elevated trails in *WildWoods*.

POST-VISIT ACTIVITIES
Have students research one of the most interesting natural features they learned about, such as native trees, biodiversity, or animal tracks and traces. Have students discuss careers that work closely with the natural world.