



OFFICE OF K-12

SCIENCE & PLANETARIUM

SCIENCE PARENT NEWSLETTER

FOURTH GRADE

UNIT 2

LIFE SCIENCE

IN SCHOOL...

Fourth graders are expected to develop an understanding that plants and animals have internal and external structures that function to support survival, growth, behavior, and reproduction. Students will work to answer “How do internal and external structures support the survival, growth, behavior, and reproduction of plants and animals?”

STUDENTS WILL KNOW...	STUDENTS WILL BE ABLE TO...
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All living things have specific, structure and functions• Information is processed in many different ways in living things• Models are used to examine and explain things too large or small to be seen with the naked eye	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use a model to test interactions concerning the functioning of a natural system• Construct an argument with evidence, data, and/or a model.

AT HOME...

ASK YOUR STUDENTS...	ENGAGE YOUR STUDENTS...
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• How do internal and external structures support the survival, growth, behavior, and reproduction of plants and animals?• What are the structure and functions that allow living things to evolve and live?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Plants and animals have both internal and external structures that serve various functions in growth, survival, behavior, and reproduction.• Different sense receptors are specialized for particular kind of information, which may be then processed by the animal's brain. Animals are able to use their perceptions and memories to guide their actions.



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IN THE COMMUNITY...

- Urban wildlife can be really exciting to see but they can also create mischief that endangers them and annoys humans. What are some behaviors your family could change to reduce the interaction between your and local wildlife?
- [The Elgin High School Nature Trail](#) and outdoor classroom is home to a rare but very cool plant called the [Smooth Carrion Flower](#). Do some research on the word carrion and predict who pollinates these plants. How did you decide?

U46 STEM EXPO...

- Design a solution to a problem caused by urban wildlife based solely on changing behavior. (either human or animal)
- Select a plant or animal and create a model that demonstrates how a structure of the organism helps it function and survive.