

Most of these activities can be completed at Fernbank Museum of Natural History. Don't forget to check your scout book to find additional activities on this subject and for ways you can use the Museum to work toward academic pins. You must complete all of the activities to earn your belt loop.

Vocabulary

The following list of vocabulary words and definitions will help you to speak like a scientist.

Natural Resources—Materials that occur in nature and are essential or useful to humans.

Examples include: water, air, land, forests, fish and wildlife, topsoil, and minerals.

Organism—A living thing.

Ecosystem—A natural unit consisting of all of the organisms and non-living factors of the environment.

Detritivores—Animals that consume decomposing organic material, contributing to the recycling of nutrients.

Niche—An organism's special role in its ecosystem.

Endangered Species—Any plant or animal species that is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.



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MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

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BEFORE YOUR VISIT

With your den, troop or family, discuss natural resources. Do you think it is important to conserve them? Why?

Do you think natural resources are important?

How can you help to protect and conserve them?

1

DURING YOUR VISIT

Look for some examples of natural resources in the exhibition, *A Walk Through Time In Georgia* (Upper Level).

Record what you found.

Natural Resources

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Name of Georgia Region

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

How do we use this resource?

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

2

DURING YOUR VISIT

A **food chain** or a **food web** is the feeding relationship between living things in an ecosystem. Energy from the sun and food is cycled through animals, fungi and plants. Each **organism** (living thing) has its own **niche** (special role) in the ecosystem.

- Select one of the region galleries in *A Walk Through Time In Georgia*, and observe where the animals are and what they are doing.
- In the space provided below, draw an example food chain or web for this region based on your observation of the animals.
- Make sure to look at tooth or beak shape, body covering and body shape.
- Look for field guides in the exhibit to identify animal names.

Types of organisms	Producers	Primary Consumers	Secondary Consumers	Decomposers and Detritivores
Definition	Plants use energy from the sun	Animals that use energy from plants	Animals that eat primary consumers	Organisms that recycle nutrients back into the ecosystem
Examples	Grass, trees	Rabbits, deer	Foxes, bears	Mushrooms, millipedes
What can you find? Draw or write in the space provided				

What do you think would happen to the ecosystem if one of these organisms ceased to exist?

3

DURING YOUR VISIT

An **endangered species** is any plant or animal species that is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

In the Coastal Plain Region of *A Walk Through Time In Georgia* you can find two of Georgia’s own threatened and endangered animals—the gopher tortoise and the eastern indigo snake are both in decline.

Select one of the two and collect the following information. Use your observation skills and the field guide to learn about these animals.

Animal name	Description or drawing	Where did you find it?	Special traits	What does it eat?

AFTER YOUR VISIT:

Do some research.

Find out what is being done to assist the endangered animals in our state and around the world.

How can you can help to make a difference?