



KS3 Living things in their environment
Exhibition-based activity

We're Depending On You

The Science of Aliens exhibition examines the evolution of life on this planet and uses it as a basis for understanding the potential for the development of life on other worlds. In this approach there is an assumption that life elsewhere in the Universe will undergo evolution due to environmental pressures, just like life on Earth, and will exist in interdependent eco-systems.

Go to zone two of the exhibition, Alien Science, and find the displays on the development of life on the Earth and life under the sea. As the children examine these displays they will notice that these habitats support an amazingly diverse range of creatures.

Ask the children to find the essential links between the physical forms and lifestyles of the creatures on display, the environment in which they developed and the interdependent nature of the creatures' existence by getting them to complete the following tasks:

Can you find five specific ways in which these creatures have evolved to fit their earth-based or sea-based environments?

Why would a creature be able to survive in one environment but not another?

What, if anything, do creatures from different environments have in common?

Can you find three examples of how the species on display depend on other plants or animals for survival?