



LEARNING LABS ANIMALS IN ACTION

Through observation and action, students compare and contrast the diverse ways in which animals move, discovering connections between animals' actions and their habitats. Students interact with hermit crabs, make predictions about their movement and role-play other specific animal movements.

GRADE LEVEL: K-2 | **CAPACITY:** 35 students | **DURATION:** 50 minutes

KEY CONCEPTS

Adaptations, body parts, form and function

SKILLS

Comparing and contrasting, observation, predictions, measuring, modeling, motor skills

IL STATE LEARNING STANDARDS

- 11.A.1a, 11.A.1b, 11.A.1c, 11.A.1f
- 12.A.1a, 12.A.1b, 12.B.1a, 12.D.1a
- 13.A.1c

WHAT TO EXPECT FROM THE LEARNING EXPERIENCE

- Students will be active to explore how animals move
- Students work and collaborate in groups
- Teachers and chaperones may participate
- Multimedia resources encourage further exploration
- Opportunity for live animal encounter
- Students sit on mats in groups



For more information contact
studentprograms@sheddaquarium.org



FURTHER EXPLORATION

Shedd Educational Adventures Animal Movement Bingo and Animal Imaging

<http://sea.sheddaquarium.org/sea/>

Discovery Education Animals in Action

<http://school.discoveryeducation.com/lessonplans/>



CONNECTIONS TO THE EXHIBITS

Many animals in the aquarium move in unique ways. Below are suggestions on how to explore the aquarium and discover what moves us as animals.

Polar Play Zone

Students can view Rockhopper and Magellanic penguins. Across the way is the Penguin Playscape, where students can dress up as penguins and explore a penguin habitat. Challenge students to act like real penguins by asking them what body parts penguins have. What body parts do penguins use to move on land? How about in the water? Can penguins talk?

Oceans gallery

Enormous spider crabs have many legs and appendages. Students can observe the different types of legs and predict what each type of leg is used to do. How do these crabs catch food? How many legs are used for walking? How do they move?

Rivers gallery

Find the unusual Fly River turtle in this gallery. Students can compare this river turtle to a sea turtle (which can be found in the Caribbean Reef). What body parts are the same? Are similar body parts used for the same purpose? Do all turtles move the same way?

CONNECTIONS TO THE CLASSROOM

- Before your students visit Shedd Aquarium, have them brainstorm the different ways in which animals can move. You can even create a “number of legs” chart to compare and contrast how animals move by choosing 10 different animals with varying numbers of legs and asking students how each of those animals move. Do the number of legs change the way an animal moves? Does an animal with two legs move differently than an animal with six legs?
- After your visit, you can go back to your “number of legs” chart and challenge students to come up with ways in which animals use their different body parts. Do all animals with legs walk? Do animals with four legs use their legs in the same way? What about animals with eight legs (octopus and spider)?