

## Mass Audubon's Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary Preschool Programs



### Scales, tails, claws and jaws!

Bring the natural world of Cape Cod into your classroom! Mass Audubon's experienced teacher-naturalists help to foster children's curiosity about the natural world by providing inquiry-based, hands-on lessons. Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary has been teaching in Cape Cod schools for over 20 years.

Programs are designed to support Massachusetts' Department of Education Curriculum Frameworks and include a mixture of sensory activities, experiments, dramatic play, songs, stories, natural history artifacts and live animal presentations. Developmentally appropriate lessons focus on introducing students to seasonal changes, life cycles and characteristics of different types of plants and animals. Programs incorporate STEM skills and provide a foundation for future learning. Holding a crab, watching a minnow, or touching a bird nest provides children with positive first impressions of the natural world and connects curriculum to concrete phenomena. Create lasting memories with us this year!

### Sample classroom programs:

#### **Animals of the Coast**

Students investigate marine animals that live along the coast of Cape Cod through handling live animals like crabs, snails, hermit crabs, and minnows! Discussion is guided by students' questions and observations. Students are challenged to think about how these animals survive in their watery world. How does a periwinkle snail move? Can a crab see? How does a fish breathe underwater?

Standards Covered: PreK-LS1-1(MA) and PreK-LS1-3(MA)

#### **Animals in Winter**

Through an entertaining puppet show students learn the adaptations animals use to survive winter on Cape Cod. Students explore questions like why do robins fly south for the winter and how do chipmunks stay warm when the weather cools down? Students "become" birds and fly around the room in a migration game, search for acorns like squirrels, and experiment with a "blubber glove" to understand how marine mammals survive in chilly water.

Standards Covered: PreK-ESS2-6(MA) and PreK-LS2-2(MA)

**Additional classroom programs offered:**

**Signs of Spring** – Discover how to sense the changing seasons by looking for camouflaged animals, noticing flowers blooming, feeling the texture of a pinecone, and listening to frog and bird calls.

**Nocturnal Animals** – Use your sense of smell like a coyote, listen like a bat, and see like an owl to find out how nocturnal animals navigate in the dark.

**Baby Birds** – Learn what makes a bird a bird and how baby birds grow up. Explore different types of nests, organize and find matches to egg pictures, and act as birds building a nest.

**Bird Beaks** – Listen to a story and visit stations to discover how different beaks are good for different kinds of foods. Experiment with a variety of tools to grab a toy minnow from the water like a great blue heron or pluck a toy insect from tree bark like a woodpecker.

**Fish** – Investigate how fish breathe and move underwater by examining the parts of a fish and observing live mummichog minnows.

**Insects** – Compare insect body parts with body parts of other animals by putting together a puzzle and “flying” and “feeding” like a bee. Discover how some insects and plants are dependent on one another to meet their basic needs.

**Owls** – Discover amazing owl adaptations by listening to calls, looking at a real owl mount, testing your ability to see and hear like an owl, and playing a predator and prey game.

**Trees** – Pretend your arms are branches and your feet are roots to explore different tree parts and their functions. Visit stations to investigate bark and other tree artifacts and make careful observations to match leaves.

**Turtles** – Explore turtle shells, pictures and live turtles to learn about turtle characteristics, their life cycle, and which species live on Cape Cod.

**Whales** – Use tools to “feed” like a whale, try out a “blubber glove” to discover how whales stay warm, search for shape patterns on whale tails, and examine whale bones.

**Classes are 30 minutes. Field trips are also available.**

**For more information please contact:**

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