

Animal Nutrition & the Skeletal System



This project teaches children about the importance of nutrition for humans and other animals. They learn about the role of a skeleton and muscles and identify animals with different types of skeleton.

- Living things;
- Carnivores, herbivores and omnivores;
- Human diet; Human nutrition and food groups; Fatty foods;
- Seasonal changes in animals' diets;
- Human skeleton; Joints; Muscles;
- Skeleton types – endoskeletons and exoskeletons;
- Working scientifically – identifying and classifying, observing changes over time, comparative test, pattern seeking, research

Children will revisit prior learning about living things, including how animals can be carnivores, herbivores or omnivores, needing food, water, air, shelter, sleep and space to reproduce and survive. They will use the term 'nutrition', learning that it is a life process by which all living things get or make food. They will learn that humans are omnivores because of their teeth and ask scientific questions about the human diet and research to find the answers. They will learn how humans need a balanced diet containing various foods in the right proportions from the main food groups: fruit and vegetables, carbohydrates, proteins, dairy and alternatives and oils and spreads. They will learn that oils and spreads contain fat which is an essential part of the human diet if consumed in small amounts, before investigating the fattiness of various foods. They will read information to compare the diets of different animals, including carnivores, herbivores and omnivores, revisiting learning about how animals' diets change with the seasons. They will learn the function of the human skeleton, observing and then labelling the location of its major bones. They will learn what joints are and investigate how they allow us to bend and move easily. They will learn the function of muscles and identify how they work in pairs before observing firsthand the movements their muscles bring about. They will carefully examine different skeleton types and use the terms 'vertebrate', 'invertebrate', 'endoskeleton' and 'exoskeleton'. They will complete their learning by generating scientific questions on the theme of nutrition, skeletons and muscles and use observation or research to find the answers.