Discovery VOYAGER Activity Outlines

Minerama 2019

Our team of scientists and science educators deliver exploratory, interactive and play-based activities, encouraging students to direct their own exploration and discovery. All of this for only $4 per student! We will be offering the following activities at Minerama for 2019:

1. The Science of Soils (Year K-10)

Get your hands dirty while learning about the properties of soil, and how it nourishes the biological world. Students analyse the physical, chemical and biological properties of soil collected from the show ground using a range of methods, and compare the characteristics of this soil to others from around the region. We identify how the characteristics of soil affect the growth of various foods and native plants. This is a great precursor or motivation for a school gardening project.

2. Palaeontology Puzzles (Year K-6)

Bones and artefacts buried in the earth tell us stories of the past. They provide us with puzzles and evidence to piece together those stories to make sense of history, and tell us a lot about biology, art, geology, evolution and much more. In this activity students search for bones from an unknown animal hidden in kinetic sand, and work out which parts of the body they belong to. Make your own fossil imprints and learn just how delicate a job it is unearthing these fascinating snapshots in time.

3. Palaeontology – Weighing Giants (Year 7-10)

Open any book on dinosaurs, and it will almost certainly mention their size. Some might even suggest “a T-rex weighed as much as a bus!” Dinosaurs are well known for their enormous sizes, and indeed they include the largest animals ever to walk the earth. But how do we know how heavy they were? Dinosaurs have been extinct for a long time, and only their bones remain. So how can we possibly weigh them? This activity will combine palaeontology, math, physics and biology, using an age-old technique to estimate just how large these amazing animals once were!

4. Rocking the age of Earth (K-10)

Take a walk through the history of our ancient earth from its very beginnings up to the present day. Earth is around 4.54 billion years old and holds a lot of secrets that can be found in its rocks. Rocks on earth are like archives, or pages in a book that record past events. In this session you will be able to look and touch everything from meterorites, dinosaurs, gemstones and other igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic rocks to give you an idea of just how old it is and what life might have been like if we could time travel back to see it.