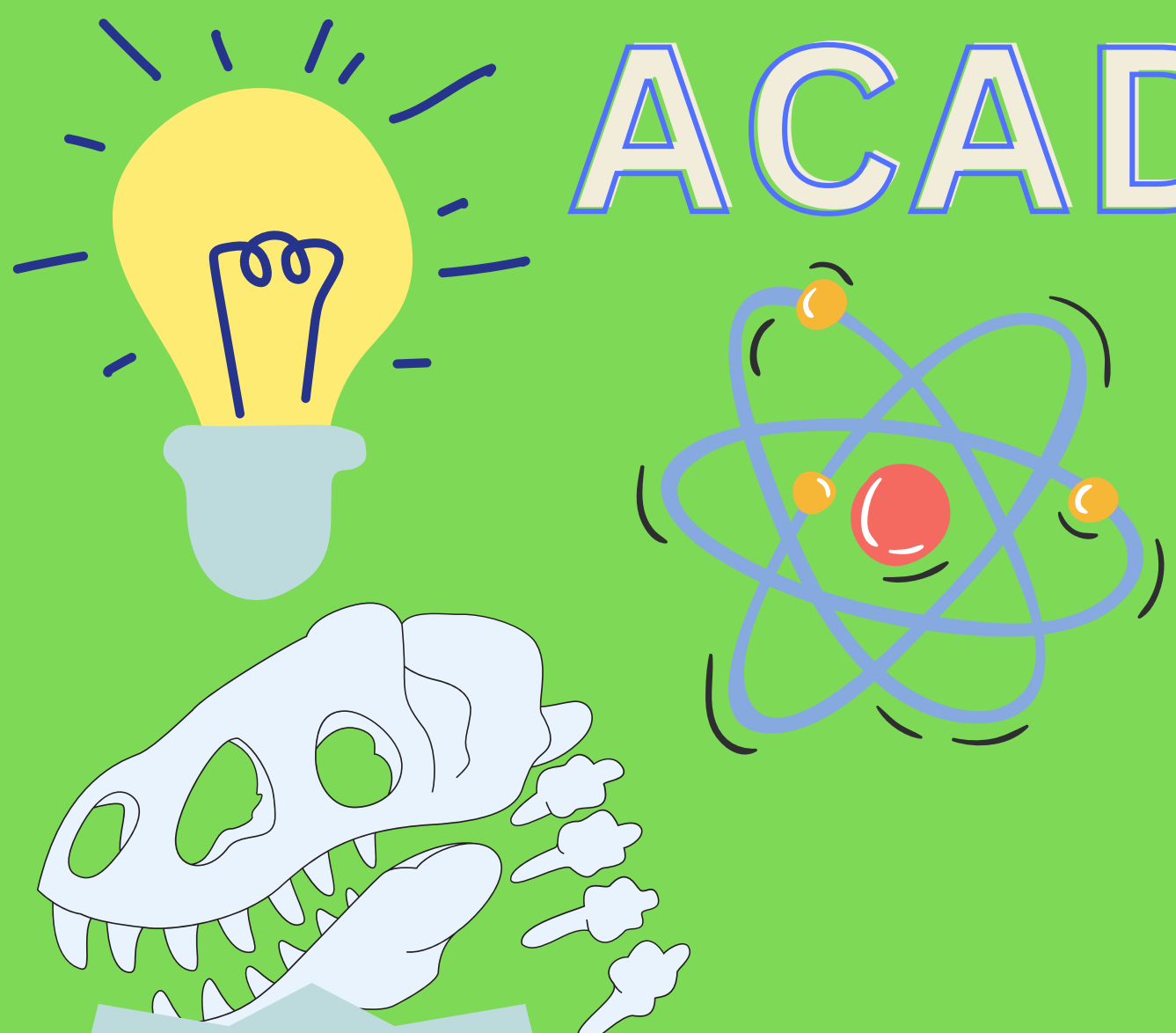


SCIENCE EDUCATION AT THE ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES



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for Museum Studies Fieldwork B420

Introduction

The Academy of Natural Sciences is the oldest natural science museum in the US! In class we have discussed the many hats a museum wears such as a research institution, a house for collections, a business entity, and a place for remembering. My internship focused on museums as a place that fosters learning. Throughout my internship I had the opportunity to speak to so many wonderful people about their jobs and expand my understanding of how museums educate. I also had the opportunity to contribute my own work to the pool of educational resources.



What are the different ways museums educate?

My Contributions: Facilitating Independent Visitor Engagement

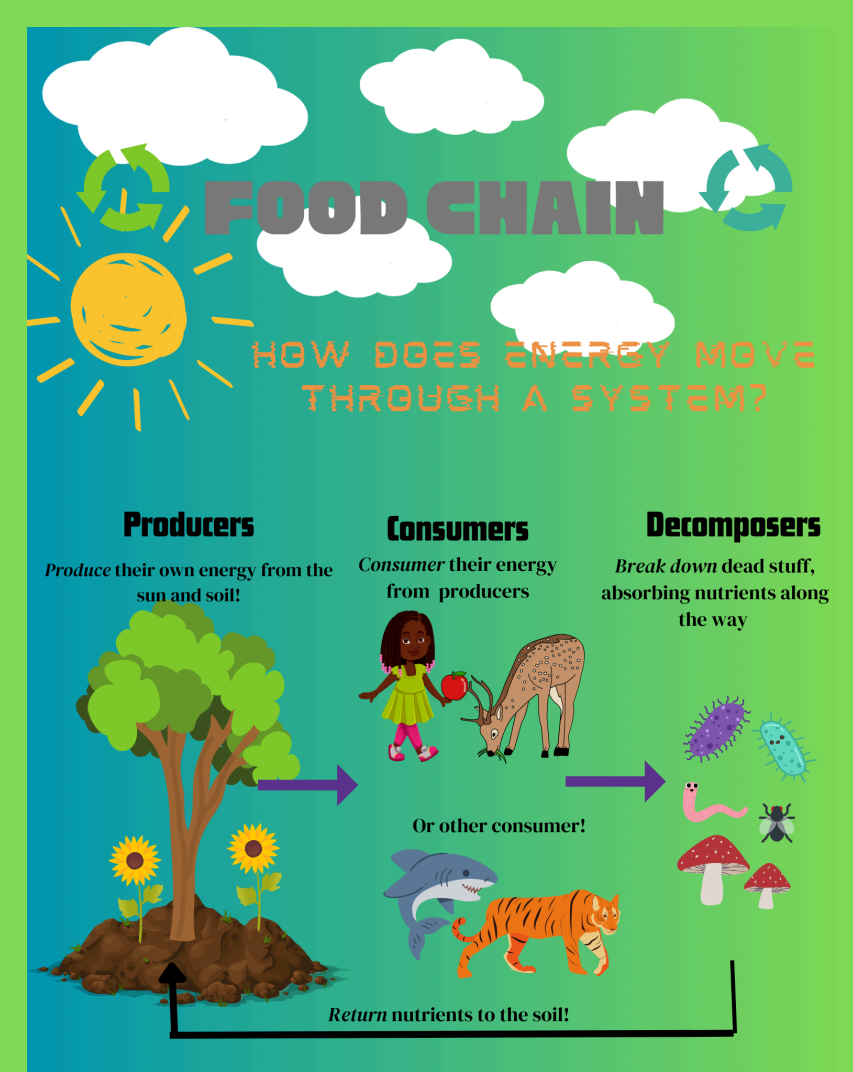
1. Onsite one-time engagements

- Auditorium Shows:** allow large school groups to explore a subject such as weather systems or the job of a paleontologist. The shows connect student's previous knowledge to exhibits that they will see at the museum and teach them how science is relevant to their lives and futures.
- Visitor Stations:** located in almost every gallery in the museum, engagement staff host activities from beetle drawing to evolution card matching. They are also well versed on the exhibits and can answer questions, allowing museum visitors to dive deeper!

2. Repeating programs (on + off-site)

- Women In STEM:** a four year program to support high school women and gender minorities who have demonstrated potential (not necessarily in the form of grades) for STEM careers. This program provides wholistic support for its participants, from help applying to college to learning opportunities along the New Jersey Coast. Many of the staff who currently run the program are alumnae.
- Pre-K Science Education:** educators from the museum visit a given pre-K eight times providing a series of foundational science lessons. After the program teachers are given the lesson plans and needed materials to replicate the course in future years.

Philly Flower Show Infographics



Scavenger Hunts!



Looking Forward

How do we make museum education more accessible?

