

**Project FOCUS
Best Lessons
FOURTH GRADE**

Title of Lesson: Bodily Systems Project: The Skeletal System

Theme: Life Science

Unit Number: 1 **Unit Title:** Ecology

Performance Standard(s) Covered (enter codes):

S5L3

Enduring Standards (objectives of activity):

Habits of Mind

- Asks questions
- Uses numbers to quantify
- Works in a group
- Uses tools to measure and view
- Looks at how parts of things are needed
- Describes and compares using physical attributes
- Observes using senses
- Draws and describes observations

Content (key terms and topics covered):

Skeletal System, Bones, Ligaments, Tendons, Joints

Learning Activity (Description in Steps)

Abstract (limit 100 characters): Students will learn about the structure and function of the skeletal system

Details: Emphasize that our bodies are very important to study- in order for us to be healthy, we need to know how our body works! Next, trace an outline of each student's body on butcher paper. Be sure they label their drawing with their names. Use the life-sized skeleton to point out various bones on the body- be sure to introduce the ones that are the most common (such as the patella, sternum, femur, etc). Explain that there are over 200 bones in our body and that the skeletal system is very complex! You can also name a bone and have the kids guess where it is on the model. Finally, allow students ample time to draw bones on their body outline. You may want to stick to just a few bones (such as those in an arm or a leg), since drawing out the majority of the bones in the body would be excessive and take too much time.

Finish the lesson by talking about what we can do to keep our bones strong! Since bones are made of calcium, what foods could we eat to help them stay strong and healthy? Also, discuss how the human skeleton is the same as or different from other skeletons (such as in other animals; you may want to mention exoskeletons as well).

Materials Needed (Type and Quantity):

Butcher paper cut into 4-5 foot sections for each child

Black markers for making outlines

Crayons (a variety of colors)

"Mr. Bones"- full-sized skeleton which may be checked out from Barnett Shoals

Notes and Tips (suggested changes, alternative methods, cautions):

Sources/References:

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)