

Field Trips

You will be required to make one self guided field trip for 10 points toward your total course grade. You may make additional field trips for extra credit points. For each field trip you must submit a **receipt** (if admission is collected) &/or a **brochure** or a couple of photos and collect the **information requested below**.

Some suggested places to go:

Austin Nature & Science Center

Describe the habitat and lifestyle of three native mammals found at the Center.

Describe the habitat and lifestyle of a native bird of prey, a native reptile and a native arachnid found at the Center

Describe the honeybee colony and how each member of the colony work together for the success of the colony

What kinds of plants and critters did you find in and around the pond?

What exactly are wasp galls?

Cave Tours

eg. Longhorn Caverns, Wonder World, Inner Space Caverns, Natural Bridge Caverns

How does the cave you visited here compare to other caves you have been to?

Why are cave ecosystems so fragile?

List 5 cave adapted species found in the cave and describe their characteristics and how they have adapted to the cave environment

List 5 animals that use the cave that are not cave adapted and describe their characteristics and how they use the cave

Describe any bacteria, protists, fungi or plants that were common in or near the cave

Congress Avenue Bat Colony

What species of bat nests here? what is it's common name and binomial name?

When did they start their flight, how long did it last

In what direction did they head when leaving the bridge?

What is the natural range of this species?

Are these bats considered pests or helpful animals? Explain.

Enchanted Rock State Park 18 miles N of Fredericksburg, Texas on RR965

Name and describe the four major plant communities of Enchanted Rock and note any species that were in bloom during your visit.

Name three animals you actually saw in the Park

Identify and describe the nature and significance of the “most threatened natural resource” found at Enchanted Rock

Lost Maples State Natural Area

name two endangered species common at Lost Maples

What is the species of the predominant tree and what is their ecological significance

list 5 kinds of plants you actually saw while there

list 5 animals you actually saw while there

describe any fungi you saw while there

LBJ Wildflower Center

Make a list of 10 flowering plant species (angiosperms) that are currently flowering

Make a list of 10 flowering plant species that are not currently in flower

Make a list of 5 nonflowering plants (eg. mosses, ferns, conifers) found there

Make a list of 10 different animals found there

Natural Bridge Wildlife Ranch

(located between San Antonio and New Braunfels, exit #175 off IH 35, 7 mi west on Natural Bridge Caverns Road)

Make a list of three **native** birds, three **native** mammals, three **native** reptiles THAT YOU ACTUALLY SAW

Name 5 different species of **exotic wildlife** not normally found in the US, describe the similarities and the differences between their central Texas habitat compared to their native habitats

New Braunfels Snake Farm

Make a list of 5 reptiles that are from the United States; and 5 reptiles that are not found in the US that are on display

List 3 species of nonnative poisonous snakes on display, and summarize information about each one and list its place of origin

List 3 species of native poisonous snakes on display and describe the habitats in which each is found

List 5 different kinds of mammals, 5 reptiles (other than snakes) and 3 different arthropods on display.

Old Tunnel Wildlife Management Area

what is the origin of the “old tunnel”

what is its most notable animal occupant;

what is a “pseudo-maternal” colony

list 5 kinds of plants you actually saw while hiking there

list 5 animals you actually saw while hiking there

Texas Natural Science Center (formerly Texas Memorial Museum, UT campus)

Make a list of 10 **fossil** animals or plants displayed in the museum that once lived in the Austin area

Make a list of 5 endangered species currently on display there

Name one example **each** of 5 **classes** of animals that you can find on display there (see your text or a website for examples of animal classes)

Texas State Aquarium (Corpus Christi, Tx) or Moody Gardens Aquarium (Galveston)

List 10 different invertebrate animals that you saw

What was the largest animal on exhibit?

What was the simplest animal on exhibit?

List 5 different species of fish on exhibit.

List 10 different species of organisms found on coral reefs

Texas Coast (Port Aransas, Galveston, Corpus Christi, Padre Island):

Describe the most important environmental factors affecting life on the coast and in coastal waters

Walk the beach and count the number of “shells” in a 100 ft stretch; note the total number AND the number of different kinds

Collect a few samples of DEAD shells (or photograph them), try to identify them and turn them in with your report

Describe, and if possible identify, 3 different kinds of plants growing in the back dunes of the beach

Make a list of the major species of birds and mammals that you *actually see* at the coast (not what you think is “supposed” to be there).

Wild Basin Preserve

What is unique about the preserve; why was this land turned into a preserve

Name 5 animals and describe their habitat in the preserve

Name 5 plants in the preserve and how they were/are used by humans in the past or present

Wildseed Farms field trip (Fredericksburg, Texas)

Describe the rationale for “Wildseed Farms” and some of their notable accomplishments in the area of wildflower propagation

list 5 host plants and 5 species of butterflies that you saw in “The Butterfly Gardens”

list 10 species of plants located in the “Display Gardens”

Zilker Gardens

Make a list of 10 flowering plant species (angiosperms) that are currently flowering

Make a list of 10 flowering plant species that are not currently in flower

Make a list of 5 nonflowering plants (eg. mosses, ferns, conifers) found there

Make a list of 10 different animals found there

Zoos

eg. Austin Zoo, San Antonio Zoo

Describe how the zoo you visited here compares to other zoos you have been to

Make a list of mammals found there in 5 different **orders** (see your text or website)

Select one animal and observe its behavior for at least 15 minutes and describe it: what is it doing, why is it doing it, what organ systems are involved, of what evolutionary advantage is it

Describe 3 different **native** animals in the zoo; what habitat they are found in, what they eat, etc

Select a **nonnative** animal and describe what impact it might have if released into the central Texas environment