

## **REAL AND MYTHICAL CREATURES**

Wednesday, January 27 - April 28 (no class Feb 17 and Apr 7; 12 weeks)

9:30-10:45am

Ages 8-10

Through investigation, observation, engineering, and problem solving, students explore the science used to determine if odd, mysterious animals are real or just a myth. All lab costs are included in registration fee. Course enrollment is limited to 12 students.

Instructor: Suzanne Law, BA, RN

Location: Science Center (suite 5)

Course fee: \$220 OR \$20/lab

10% sibling discount

### **LAB SCHEDULE:**

**Wooly Mammoth and Cyclops** - Wednesday, January 27

This week, we investigate the myth of the cyclops, learn how paleontologists believe woolly mammoth fossils, and discuss how fossils of woolly mammoths may have formed.

**Giant Squid and Kraken** – Wednesday, February 3

Students investigate the adaptations, behavior and habitat of the giant squid and how it resembles the legendary Kraken.

**Himalayan Brown Bear and Yeti** - Wednesday, February 10

We explore how scientists determined that “evidence” of a Yeti was actually a hair of a Himalayan brown bear as we learn about genetics and DNA sequences.

**Manatees and Mermaids** - Wednesday, February 24

Students learn about manatees and how they may have inspired the myth of mermaids based on their anatomy and habitat.

**Narwhals and Unicorns** - Wednesday, March 3

Narwhals might be considered to be unicorns of the sea, but we learn about what narwhals really are and adaptations they have to survive in their environment.

**Dragons and Thorny Devils** - Wednesday, March 10

Although they may look like dragons, thorny devils are lizards with a “false” second head, and we simulate how they collect water through tiny tubes in their skin.

**Vampires and Musk Deer** - Wednesday, March 17

We learn about the unusual traits of the Musk deer from fang like canines that make it look like a vampire deer, to a scented Musk gland used for perfume.

**Goblin Sharks and Megalodon** - Wednesday, March 24

Students learn about the rare goblin shark and the extinct megalodon as we study shark adaptations for feeding, and explore marine food webs.

**Puss Caterpillars** - Wednesday, March 31

In mythology, moths were often considered symbols of death, so we investigate the venomous larval form of the Southern Flannel Moth, and discuss the life cycle of moths and butterflies.

**Water Monsters** - Wednesday, April 14

From a wide grin and feathery gills, we study our own resident axolotl, or Mexican salamander, and discuss their specific habitats and adaptations.

**Basilisk and Snakes** - Wednesday, April 21

We study the biology and anatomy of snakes to learn about the legendary king of the serpents, the basilisk.

**Real-Life Pokemon** - Wednesday, April 28

Many fictional creatures are inspired by real organisms, so this week, we learn about animals that may have been the inspiration for Pokemon, and get creative to invent our own.