Hologram Zoo Teaching Guide – Years 3–4

Program Summary

This program helps students explore how animals survive and adapt to their environments. Students will observe animal features, discuss adaptations and ecosystems, and use inquiry skills to group and compare living things. Activities promote scientific observation and connections between animals and their habitats.

Connect – Pre-Visit Activities

- Research animals from the selected zone (Australia, Arctic, etc.).
- Create a mind map of what students already know about habitats.
- Discuss what it means for an animal to be 'adapted' to a place.

Understand – On-Site Experience

- Students rotate through:
  - Hologram Zoo Exploration (guided)
  - Creative/Observation Activity (led by teacher)
  - Green Screen Photo Experience
- Encourage note-taking, sketching animals, and asking questions about features and survival.

Act – Post-Visit Classroom Activities

- Create a chart comparing adaptations across animals seen.
- Write a descriptive paragraph or report about one animal.
- Construct a diorama of an animal's habitat.
- Create a food chain diagram using observed animals.

Curriculum Links (Victorian Curriculum – Years 3–4)

- VCSSU058 – Living things can be grouped on the basis of observable features and can be distinguished from non-living things.
- VCSSU059 – Living things have life cycles and depend on each other and the environment to survive.
- VCSIS068 – Suggest ways to plan and conduct investigations to find answers to questions.
- VCSIS071 – Represent and communicate observations and ideas in a variety of ways.
- VCPSCSE016 – Identify ways to care for others and the environment.

- VCDSTC034 – Investigate how people design products or environments to meet community needs.

STEM or Inquiry Extensions

- Research endangered species from your selected zone.
- Create a presentation on animal adaptation to climate.
- Design a 'super-animal' adapted to multiple zones (e.g., Arctic + Desert).

Teacher Reflection

Use this space to reflect on the class's inquiry skills, understanding of ecosystems, and engagement with scientific observation.