

Dr. Roland Kays, Zoologist

North Carolina Museum of Natural Science

Podcast length: 16:29



LESSON PLAN

SYNOPSIS

The Walking Classroom's Laura Fenn talks with [Dr. Roland Kays](#), a zoologist and Director of the Biodiversity Lab at the [North Carolina Museum of Natural Science](#). Dr. Kays explains how he and other scientists discovered a new species of mammal and how old museum specimens help scientist make new discoveries.

VOCABULARY

Review key vocabulary (included definitions are limited to the context of today's podcast)

- **zoologist:** (noun) a scientist who studies animals
- **conservation:** (noun) the act of trying to preserve and protect something, including wildlife, natural resource sand animals
- **specimen:** (noun) an individual animal, plant, mineral, etc. used as an example of its species or type for scientific study or display

QUESTIONS FOR THOUGHT & DISCUSSION

1. Dr. Kays explained the museum specimens can help scientists discover new species and give a snapshot of what the world was like at the moment that animal was alive. Do you think it's important to continue to collect and preserve museum specimens? Why or why not?
2. As Dr. Kays shared, making great discoveries can require many types of scientific experts like zoologists, geologists and meteorologists all working on a project together. Since scientists often need to work with other experts, what might be some important personality characteristics for being a scientist?
3. Dr. Kays talked about how citizens emailed pictures and reported sightings they thought might be olinguitos. Some of the sightings were olinguitos and some were not. Do you think citizens should be involved in scientific research? Why or why not?

BOOK SUGGESTIONS

Consider reading aloud or making some of these titles available to students to reinforce and extend some of the concepts covered in today's podcast.

[New Animal Discoveries](#) by Ronald Orenstein

Zoologist Ronald Orenstein shares recent animal discoveries and explains how they were discovered, the scientists who discovered them and how new discoveries are catalogued.

[Strange New Species](#) by Elin Kelsey

Using advanced technologies, scientists are able to discover and study new species in remote parts of the world.

[The Quest for the Tree Kangaroo](#) by Sy Montgomery

Learn about the very elusive tree kangaroo and the scientist that study these fascinating animals.

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

The following activities are ways to build on and extend some of the topics discussed in the podcast. We strongly encourage you to always preview videos prior to showing them to your students.

[Animal Classification: Create Your Own Species](#) <http://bit.ly/1RmG1sm>

Lesson Plan from Discovery Education

A fun learning opportunity for students to learn more about animal classification and a fun extension where students create and classify a species of their own creation.

[Scientist Discover a New Mammal – The Olinguito](#) <http://bit.ly/1J6DWai>

Untamed Science Video (4:52)

Dr. Roland Kays describes the olinguito and how it relates to the more well-known raccoon.

[Canopy in the Clouds](#) <http://bit.ly/1eK5zhl>

Website supported by the National Geographic Society

Help students better visualize a cloud forest with a visit to this site. There's pictures, videos, and facts about these amazing forests.