



Lesson for Podcast 01: Be a Naturalist!

Lesson Summary: Discover and record birds and fish at Barton Springs pool.

Lesson Description: A naturalist is a person who studies nature or natural history and that is what you will be doing in this lesson. Trek to Barton Springs, view the iPod segment, and use the help sheets to identify birds and fish at Barton Springs pool. Record the results of your finds in the field journal. Take the activity “deeper” by putting on a bathing suit, fins and goggles and dive in so you can see the fish close up.

Materials Needed:

I-pod, loaded with Zilker Trek and headphones

Journal

Colored Pencils

Binoculars

Help Sheets: Water birds and Fish

Optional:

Fins, Snorkel and goggles

Activity Discussion:

Did you know that this many species lived in and around Barton Springs? Many people think that Barton Springs is just a pool for humans, but it is also home to a wide variety of fish, turtles water birds and the endangered Barton Springs salamander.

Additional Resources:

Web:

Barton Springs Pool

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barton_Springs_Pool

Barton Springs Salamander

<http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/huntwild/wild/species/bartonspringssalamander/>

On the iPod:

Trek participants can view the Barton Springs salamander video to learn more about this elusive animal that lives under rocks and in the Barton Springs portion of the Edwards Aquifer.

Zilker Trek

Notes:

In addition to the pool, trek participants may walk above or below the dam along Barton Creek. Renting a kayak or canoe and paddling Town Lake is also a great option for identifying water birds.

The bird help sheet, located in **Be an Ornithologist!** lesson may also be of use.

Don't forget to upload your images and scans of your journal pages to our on-line gallery.