Tricks of the Trade
3rd Grade - Field Trip Station

Overview
This field trip station introduces students to some of the tools scientists use to capture and identify animals. They are introduced to a number of different trap types; learn how to identify many common animals from their skulls; and practice using a dichotomous key to identify an unknown animal.

NM Science Standards Addressed
2-2-1-3 Classify common animals according to their observable characteristics (e.g., body coverings, structure).

CCSS Language Arts Standards Addressed
SL.3.1 Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade 3 topics and texts, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.
SL.3.1.B Follow agreed-upon rules for discussions (e.g., gaining the floor in respectful ways, listening to others with care, speaking one at a time about the topics and texts under discussion).
SL.3.1.C Ask questions to check understanding of information presented, stay on topic, and link their comments to the remarks of others.
SL.3.1.D Explain their own ideas and understanding in light of the discussion.
SL.3.3 Ask and answer questions about information from a speaker, offering appropriate elaboration and detail.

Next Generation Science Standards Addressed
3-LS4-3 Construct an argument with evidence that in a particular habitat some organisms can survive well, some survive less well, and some cannot survive at all.