Name of Exhibit: Finch

Description: The Headwaters Science Center currently have sixteen finches in an aviary near the front entrance. There are multiple species present, which invites conversations about how animals interact with one another in the wild. The fact that there are multiple species, but they are all still "finches" also invites conversations about how we categorize animals into groups.

For all ages.

MN SCIENCE Grad Stand/Strand/Sub-strand: Number####:

0L 1.2.1.2, 0L 2.1.1.3, 0L 3.1.1.1
1L 1.1.1.1, 1L 3.1.1.1, 1L 3.2.2.2, 1L 4.1.1.1
2L 4.1.1.1
3L 3.1.1.2, 3L 3.2.1.1, 3L 4.1.1.1,
4 L 4.1.1.1,
5L 4.1.2.1
7L 2.1.1.1, 7L 3.2.1.1, 7L 3.2.1.4, 7L 4.1.1.2

Grade Level(s): Kindergarten through 7th Grades

Content Area(s): Life Science, Earth Science

Learning Target(s):

1. I can ask questions from observations about the similarities and differences found in finches and other living things.
2. I can explain how patterns in the behavior of finches and their offspring help offspring survive.
3. I can explain, using evidence, how variations in characteristics among finches (same species) may provide advantages in surviving, finding mates, and reproducing.
4. I can apply my knowledge about specific HSC finches to explain the strategies a variety of animals use to survive.
5. I can obtain information from resources to determine that finches have traits inherited from parents and that variations of these traits exist in a group of similar organisms.

Essential Question(s):

1. What differences can you see between two finches and other animals? What similarities can you see between two finches and other animals?
2. What human invention mimics finch characteristics?
3. What do finches do to protect themselves from enemies?
4. How do variations in characteristics among finches provide advantages?
5. What are strategies finches use to survive? Why are the strategies successful? Why aren't some strategies successful?
6. What variations are the result of inherited traits from parents of finches?

Key Vocabulary in Demo: Beak, Biome, Birds, Vertebrates vs Invertebrates, Camouflage, Feathers, Habitat, Predator, Prey, Skeleton, Warm-Blooded vs Cold-Blooded, Wings

Prerequisite Terms: Adaptation, Advantage, Behavior, Characteristics, Differences, Function, Lineage, Mimic, Model, Observation, Patterns, Protect, Range, Relationship, Similarities, Strategies, Structure, Traits, Variation