



LOS ANGELES COUNTY ANNUAL REPORT

2013

Creepy Crawlies: Natural History Museum's New Nature Lab



The new Nature Lab at the Natural History Museum showcases all the native species that are found in and around Los Angeles, including live Pacific rattlesnakes, turtles, and rats.

Julia Garcia works at sorting a whole bunch of insects collected from the Natural History Museum's backyard. She's on the lookout for some never before discovered species that are living right here in L.A. and so far the search has paid off.

"We've found a few species that haven't really been named or identified, so that's pretty exciting, that's always a fun event when we find one of those."

Museum officials say the goal of the new exhibit is for visitors to understand, explore and have fun with L.A.'s biodiversity.

"I like the rats over there," one boy said.

"I like the turtles," said another little boy

Lila Higgins talks about that biodiversity. "The things that you see every single day, to those rare, rare species that we had no idea were even here—even our scientist didn't know they were here—so, you can come and make those discoveries from the things you know and have seen every day, to the things that we didn't even know existed."

In addition to all the live animals, the new Nature Lab also features some interactive and educational activities for children. One interactive activity allows children to build their own backyard and figure out what kind of animals live there.

One little girl said, "I do like all the animals. The coloring and stuff..."

Visitor Julie Jarvis gushed, "Our little two-year-old likes to run around the dioramas. He thinks they are wonderful."

With so many cool features, the new exhibit will keep everyone in the family entertained.