Cody Baermann

Biology 212

Extra Credit Write-up

For my assignment I chose to visit the Reptile Museum outside of Monroe. When walking into the museum the building is split into two parts. On the right-hand side there are multiple species of turtles, snakes, insects and arthropods. The left side of the building contained an American Alligators, an albino alligator as well as more venomous snakes and spiders. I found visiting this zoo extremely relevant to our biology course due to us having learned about many of the animals present in the zoo. I was able to understand the information sheet outside of each exhibit, for example animals were listed as viviparous of oviparous and I was able to explain to others what those terms meant. First, I learned that the majority of the animals present in the zoo are rescues. A lot of the recues are from people who get the animal while it is young and do not realize how large the animal gets, so they surrender it to the zoo. They also told me that frequently when they open up the zoo, they will find an animal in a cage on their front step. I found it extremely important to understand any animal you intend to take in, as well as if you are capable of caring for it. Another thing that I learned from the zoo was that multiple species of snake venom are used in medicine. For example, the venom of the Brazilian Pit Viper can be synthesized to help treat high blood pressure. Another example is that the venom of the Malaysian Pit Viper can be used to dissolve blood clots in patients. I believe that those two examples could be extremely relevant in our biology course when discussing blood transport and receptors. I would have very much been interested learning about how venoms could be used in medicine because I am fascinated about our usage of other animals to cure diseases or ailments. I also believe that adding real world insight into the course material would keep students engaged and interested in what they are about to learn. I highly encourage all biology students to visit the Reptile Zoo upon completion of Biology 212 to be able to tangibly see what they have learned. I found myself excited that I was able to apply my knowledge from the classroom to real world events and I believe that other students would find joy in this as well.