

Educator's Overview

Outdoor Ecology Program

Program Description

3rd, 4th and 5th Grade

Ecology is the study of the relationships between living organisms and their natural or developed environment. Students will explore three different ecosystems within Holliday Park, comparing each, and discover the plants and animals who call these areas home. A combination of games and hands on activities will lead to an in-depth knowledge of topics such as adaptations, life cycles, energy needs, and the tools used to gather scientific information.

Theme:

Our planet is made up of a wide variety of natural and man-made environments. Living organisms within these areas have characteristics and relationships unique to the environment in which they live.

State Standards:

Third Grade:

Science

Core Standard 1 [Standard Indicators: 3.1.1, 3.1.2, 3.1.3, 3.1.5]

Core Standard 5 [Standard Indicators: 3.4.1, 3.4.2, 3.4.3, 3.4.5]

Fourth Grade:

Science

Core Standard 2 [Standard Indicators: 4.1.3, 4.1.5]

Core Standard 5 [Standard Indicators: 4.4.2, 4.4.3, 4.4.4]

Fifth Grade:

Science

Core Standard 1 [5.1.1, 5.1.2, 5.1.6]

Core Standard 5 [5.4.4, 5.4.5, 5.4.7]

Prairie

Objectives for students:

1. Identify features that make a prairie different from other habitat types.
2. Explain the historical significance of prairies to Indiana's natural history.
3. Discuss and put into practice the methodologies used when conducting a scientific study of a habitat; including forming hypotheses, collection techniques, data recording, and drawing conclusions.
4. Identify plants and animals living in a prairie, along with adaptations that help them survive in this habitat.

Forest

Objectives for students:

1. Identify features that make a forest different from other habitat types.
2. Name several different types of forest.
3. Identify plants and animals living in a forest, along with adaptations that help them survive in this habitat.
4. Understand and use a basic dichotomous key to identify tree species.
5. Distinguish the parts of a plant and understand the role that each part plays in the survival of the plant (eating, drinking, storing energy, protection, etc.)

Wetland

Objectives for students:

1. Identify features that make a wetland different from other habitat types.
2. Name several types of wetlands.
3. Identify plants and animals living in a wetland, along with adaptations that help them survive in this habitat.
4. Discuss the role wetlands play as indicators of environmental health.