



Wetland Weather

Level: 2nd & 3rd Grade

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

This program focuses on the effect weather plays on the lives of wild animals who inhabit the wetlands. Inside the Saginaw Bay Visitor Center the students discover what animals live in wetlands and how survival many times depends upon the right weather conditions through a slide-talk presentation. Students play a game where they become an animal struggling for survival as weather conditions change through the course of the game. In conclusion, the students each create a picture of what their wetland weather experience was like and then the pictures are combined in a Wetland Weather Book for the teacher to take back home to the classroom. This program can be combined with a morning hike out to the winter wetland or a museum tour.

PROGRAM GOALS:

To help understand how weather plays a major factor in the survival of many wetland animals.
To introduce the students to the creatures which inhabit a wetland environment.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:

1. Students will be able to list four things which all living things need to survive.
2. Students will be able to define basic weather terms.
3. Given a particular weather event and a particular animal from the marsh, a student will be able to predict one effect it might have on the animal.
4. Students will be able to identify 6 animals which live in the wetlands.

PRE-VISIT SUGGESTIONS:

1. Use this activity near the conclusion of a weather study unit, to reinforce basic terms.
2. We would like you to bring 1 adult for every 4 students. Adults will help groups of four conduct the game.
3. Introduce your students to the terms: habitat, food, water, shelter, space, same, different.
4. Project Learning Tree: Field, Forest, Stream 48

POST-VISIT SUGESTIONS:

1. Make a list of the different animals that live in the wetlands. Give each student an animal to research. Have them find out what it needs to survive. Have them draw a picture of their findings.
2. Keep track of rainfall in your school yard with a rain gauge and snow fall with a measuring stick, discuss how the days weather might effect animals who live nearby.
3. Project WET: A House of Seasons: as students construct a collage they observe the role of water in each season; Poetic Precipitation: use K- 2 option: poetry is used to get thinking creatively about weather; The Thunderstorm: students simulate a thunderstorm event in the wild.
4. Check out activities in Nature Scope: Wild About Weather, Braus, Judy, ed. 1985. Washington, D.C. National Wildlife Federation.
5. Make a "fair" weather book for the classroom with each student contributing a page.

COORDINATING WITH M.E.A.P. SCIENCE OBJECTIVES:

Atmosphere and Weather (EAW) V.3

e.1, e.2
Reflecting on Scientific Knowledge (R) II.1

e.4
Evolution (LE) III.4

e.2
Ecosystems (LEC) III.5

COORDINATING WITH BAY CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS SCIENCE CURRICULUM BENCHMARKS:

Hydrosphere 2-1, 2-2, 2-3

Atmosphere 2-1, 2-2

COORDINATING WITH M.E.A.P. SOCIAL STUDIES CONTENT STANDARD BENCHMARKS:

Geographic Perspective

II.2—I.e.1

II.4—e.e.2, I.e.5

II.5—e.e.1, I.e.1