



Saginaw Bay Visitor Center

School Program Descriptions:

Bay City State Recreation Area

Sens-Around

Level: K & 1st Grade

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Students will explore the natural world the way the animals do...with their senses! Students will participate in hands-on activities, which deal with sight, hearing, smelling and touch, as they discover the value of these super senses. Students will role-play birds looking for colorful ‘caterpillars’ as they learn about camouflage and protective coloring. Through their sense of smell, students will role-play wildlife babies trying to locate their “mother” or follow the peppermint beetle trail! Through listening, blind-folded students will try to locate their “prey”. Students will take a touch-hike as they feel their way through the out-of-doors! In conclusion, students will see the National Wildlife Week presentation “Discover Wildlife in Your World” (if time permits-full 2 hours required).

PROGRAM GOALS:

Designed to stimulate an awareness and appreciation of Michigan’s wildlife populations and the wetland habitat where they live.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:

1. Students will be able to list four senses which help animals survive.
2. Students will be able to pick out from a group of objects the one that is best camouflaged.
3. Students will be able to give one example of something special which lives in the park.
4. Students will acknowledge that animals have better senses of smelling and hearing than most people.

PRE-VISIT SUGGESTIONS:

1. Read aloud to your class Are You My Mother? to your class.
2. Have the students draw a picture of an animal and its home. Include food, water, shelter, and space; or cut out pictures from magazines of animals and their food, water, shelter, and space to create a collage.
3. Students should dress for outdoor exploration in current weather conditions. It can be 5-10 degrees cooler next to the Saginaw Bay. Bring a box of square bottomed trash bags for emergency rain ponchos.

POST-VISIT SUGESTIONS:

1. Draw a class mural in which each student draws a special animal with “super sense” that lives in the wetlands of Michigan.

2. Post a picture of the wetlands from a magazine or a DNR Habitat Poster on the wall of your classroom. Next, have each student look for pictures of two animals from magazines, one that would be well camouflaged to live in the scene on the wall and one that would stand out. Next, have the students glue or tape their cut-out animals onto the habitat.
3. PROJECT LEARNING TREE: *Peppermint Beetle* try this “smelly” activity again in class; *Get in Touch with Trees* –students will make their own touch box, and explore the school grounds blindfolded; *The Shape of Things*- students will focus on the shapes found in nature; *The Forest of S. T. Shrew* – take a “shrew’s eye view” of the forest.
4. PROJECT WILD: *Color Crazy* –students create representations of colorful wild animals; *Wildlife is Everywhere* – students search their environment for evidence of wildlife; *Everybody Needs a Home* – students draw pictures of homes and compare their needs with those of other animals.

COORDINATING with Grade Level Content Expectations: (Under construction)

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

Constructing New Scientific Knowledge (C) I.1

e.1

Reflecting on Scientific Knowledge (R) II.1

e.4

Organization of Living Things (LO) III.2

e.1

Evolution (LE) III.4

e.2

COORDINATING WITH BAY CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS SCIENCE CURRICULUM BENCHMARKS:

Organization of Living Things K-1

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

Geographic Perspective

II.1—e.e.2

II.2—e.e.2, e.e.3

II.3—e.e.1

Inquiry

V.1—e.e.2