

2nd Grade

Life Cycles, Biodiversity, Interdependence

These are the science standards and activities your students will enthusiastically experience at the Woodcreek Nature Center. We hope you join us and allow your students to enjoy 80 minutes in nature that could instill a lifetime of conservation values.



2nd Grade Life Science Standards

Plants and animals have predictable life cycles.

- a. Students know that organisms reproduce offspring of their own kind and that the offspring resemble their parents and one another.
- b. Students know the sequential stages of life cycles are different for different animals, such as butterflies, frogs, and mice.

Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems

- Plants depend on water and light to grow. (2-LS2-1)
- Plants depend on animals for pollination or to move their seeds around. (2-LS2-2)

Biodiversity and Humans

There are many different kinds of living things in any area, and they exist in different places on land and in water. (2-LS4-1)

Your day at the WNC...

Staging Area Lesson (30 minutes, all students)

Puppet show

A. : "The Grasshopper & The Butterfly"
Concept: life cycles of insects

B. Plant Life Cycle and Pollinators

- Students will watch a humorous skit about flowers and their pollinators

C. Life Cycle Game

- Students will review the life cycle of a dragonfly and a frog.
- Student volunteers (2 teams of 5) will place large cards of the various stages of a dragonfly and frog's life cycle in the correct order and try to beat the high school docents as they do the same with the butterfly life cycle.

D. Snake Wrangler Lesson (The high school docents act crocodile hunteresque)

- Students will observe and learn about various specimens like bird eggs and nests, snake skin, and seeds. Many birds use plants to build nests.

- Live boa constrictor is presented to group for students to learn about and touch.

Vernal Pool Trail Excursion (10 minutes, small group)

- Students will learn about the special cycles or stages of a vernal pool's "life".
- Students will look at several vernal pool flower species and discuss the reproductive strategies and life cycles of the plants.
- Students will look at the animals in the pond like dragonfly nymph, fairy shrimp, and tadpoles and discuss their life cycles.

Marsh/Wetlands Trail Excursion (20 minutes, small group)

- Students may see a variety of newborn creatures this spring like ducklings and goslings, or they may catch a glimpse of the beaver, herons, egrets, and turtles. Students will look through the mud to identify animal tracks.

*** Oak Grove Trail Excursion (15 minutes, small group on extended show days only)**

- Students will observe new growth on oaks and look for sprouting oaks and acorns. Students will look at insect galls on the oaks leaves and branches.
- Students might see the nesting Red tailed hawks and their chicks that live in the oaks or see woodpeckers and squirrels.

Picnic Area

The lesson concludes at the covered picnic area where classes are welcome to stay and eat sack lunches or return to school. You may also wish to make a day of it and visit the Roseville Utility Exploration Center at Mahany Park next door.

Contact Information

To schedule a field trip at the Woodcreek Nature Center please contact the WNC Coordinator, Nate Giorgi at the following:

Woodcreek High School

771-6565 ext. 4503

e-mail: ngiorgi@rjuhsd.us

Field Trips can be scheduled from 9:20- 10:30 for early show or 11:20- 12:30 for late show Tuesday - Friday. Spring Trips occur from March -May.

*"In the end we will conserve only what we love;
we will love only what we understand;
and we will understand only what we are taught"*
Baba Dioum