

Nature Hike

All Ages

Teacher's Guide



Lake Erie Nature & Science Center

Description

What are the native plants and animals of Ohio's fields and forests? The outdoors is our classroom as we explore and discover the habitats of Huntington Reservation. This class provides a great introduction to the Ohio wildlife and native species science content standards. *Available during the school year in the months of September, October, April or May.*
Length: 60 minutes. **Adult chaperones recommended:** 2

Content Standards

Subject	Gr	Standard
Life Science	K	Living things are different from nonliving things. Living things have physical traits and behaviors, which influence their survival.
Life Science	1	The sun is the principal source of energy (Earth/Space) Living things have basic needs, which are met by obtaining materials from the physical environment.
Geography	1	Places are distinctive because of their physical characteristics (landforms and bodies of water) and human characteristics (structures built by people).
Life Science	2	Living things cause changes on Earth.
Life Science	3	Plants and animals have life cycles that are part of their adaptations for survival in their natural environments.
Life Science	4	Changes in an organism's environment are sometimes beneficial to its survival and sometimes harmful
Life Science	5	Organisms perform a variety of roles in an ecosystem. All of the processes that take place within organisms require energy.
Earth/ Space	6	Soil is unconsolidated material that contains nutrient matter and weathered rock. Rocks, minerals and soils have common and practical uses. Cells are the fundamental unit of life.(Life Science)
Life Science	7	Matter is transferred continuously between one organism to another and between organisms and their physical environments.
Life Science	8	Diversity of species occurs through gradual processes over many generations. Fossil records provide evidence that changes have occurred in number and types of species.
Env. Science	HS	Explain how resources can be preserved to reduce the impact on Earth (e.g., planting new trees after chopping down others). Describe a change or preservation in the environment caused by people around the world (deforestation and replanting of trees).

Vocabulary (varies by grade level)

abiotic/non-living	herbivore
adaptation	invasive
biotic/living	native
characteristics	non-native
conifer	observation
deciduous	omnivore
decomposer	predator
ecosystem	prey
energy	producer
evergreen	senses
food chain	species
food web	
habitat	

Recommended Books and Field Guides

- Berries, Nuts and Seeds by Diane Burns. NorthWord Press, 1996.
- Snakes, Salamanders and Lizards by Diane L. Burns. Gareth Stevens Publishing 1995.
- Woods Walk by Henry Art and Michael Robbins. Storey Books, 2003.

Post-Trip and Extension Activities

- Research ways that humans can improve the health of ecosystems (e.g., recycling wastes, establishing rain gardens, planting native species).
- Explore organisms that once lived in Ohio and no longer exist. National Geographic provides an article on the find of a giant cockroach fossil in Ohio. Science Daily provides a rich source of information on the relationship between mammoths and elephants.
- Research or conduct a field investigation for a specific invasive species that is present in the local community or in Ohio. Examples of research questions: How did the organism get into Ohio? What is being done to control the spread of the species? What is the impact of the species on the native organisms?
- Use webcams to view animals in their natural habitat or simulated environments to observe and record physical characteristics of the animals as well as behavioral traits that are taught from parent to offspring. Falcon cams and bat cams are used by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and can be used for this study.