



OHIO'S LIVING FOREST

Grade: K and up | 90 minutes

Teacher's Guide

Description

This indoor and outdoor, inquiry-based field trip highlights the role of trees and allows students to interact with some of our resident Ohio forest animals. We will head out on a hike in the forest of Huntington Reservation to observe and investigate how native plants and animals survive and thrive.

Adult chaperones recommended: 2

Content Standards

Ohio Science Standards

- K.LS.1: Living things have specific characteristics and traits.
- K.LS.2: Living things have physical traits and behaviors, which influence their survival.
- 1.ESS.1: The sun is the principal source of energy
- 1.LS.1: Living things have basic needs, which are met by obtaining materials from the physical environment.
- 1.LS.2: Living things survive only in environments that meet their needs.
- 2.LS.2: All organisms alive today result from their ancestors, some of which may be extinct. Not all kinds
- 3.ESS.3: Some of Earth's resources are limited.
- 3.LS.1: Offspring resemble their parents and each other.
- 3.LS.2: Individuals of the same kind of organism differ in their inherited traits. These differences give some individuals an advantage in surviving and/or reproducing.
- 3.LS.3: Plants and animals have life cycles that are part of their adaptations for survival in their natural environments.
- 4.LS.1: Changes in an organism's environment are sometimes beneficial to its survival and sometimes harmful.
- 5.LS.1: Organisms perform a variety of roles in an ecosystem.
- 5.LS.2: All of the processes that take place within organisms require energy. For ecosystems, the major source of energy is sunlight. Energy entering ecosystems as sunlight is transferred and transformed by producers into energy that organisms use through the process of photosynthesis. That energy is used or stored by the producer and can be passed from organism to organism as illustrated in food webs

Climate Literacy
Principles

- 1. The sun is the primary source of energy for Earth's climate system
- 3. Life on Earth depends on, is shaped by, and affects climate.

Vocabulary

animal	forest	prey
boreal forest	habitat	producer
coniferous	leaf	root
consumer	organism	stem
deciduous	photosynthesis	temperate forest
decomposer	plant	tropical rainforest
ecosystem	predator	

Books

- Trees, Leaves & Bark by Diane Burns.
- Because of a Forest by Lola M. Schaefer.
- Leaf Man by Lois Ehlert.
- A Walk in the Deciduous Forest by Rebecca L. Johnson.

Objectives

- Students are introduced to traits that make Ohio forest animals and plants unique and able to survive.
- Students use leaf samples and field guides to identify individual tree species.
- Students participate in an interactive game to learn how the parts of a plant work together to provide resources for the plant.
- Students get up close and personal with several Ohio forest creatures in an animal encounter.
- Students are led on a guided hike in the Huntington reservation to explore the forest ecosystem in person.

Suggested Pre-Trip Activities

Teachers read: Oh Say Can You Seed? By Bonnie Worth; In the Woods: Who's Been Here? By Lindsay Barrett George.

Post-Trip Activities at School

Have students write a poem or paragraph about their trip to the forest. Include any species they may have seen. Ask students to make predictions about how the forest might be different in another season.

Extention Activities

- Adopt a Tree and use all of your senses to investigate your tree and see how it changes throughout the year
- Go on a "Schoolyard Safari"
- Discover the secret ingredients in soil
- Describe all the many roles wood and paper products play in our lives
- Create a collage using only materials from the environment
- Debate as a group of interested citizens trying to decide how to manage a piece of forestland acquired by your community
- Test the effects of overcrowding on plant growth