



OHIO'S LIVING FOREST

Grades K and up | 90 minutes

Program Overview

Description

This indoor and outdoor, hands-on field trip highlights the role of trees and allows students to interact with some of our animal Ambassadors that live at the Center. We will hike the trails in Huntington Reservation to observe and investigate how native plants and animals survive and thrive.

Adult chaperones recommended: 2

Content Standards

Subject	Gr	Ohio Department of Education Standard
Life Science	K	Living things are different from nonliving things. Living things have physical traits and behaviors, which influence their survival.
Earth Science Life Science	1	The sun is the principal source of energy. Living things have basic needs, which are met by obtaining materials from the physical environment.
Life Science	2	Living things cause changes on Earth. All organisms alive today result from their ancestors, some of which may be extinct. Not all kinds of organisms that lived in the past are represented by living organisms today.
Life Science	3	Offspring resemble their parents and each other. Individuals of the same kind of organism differ in their inherited traits. These differences give some individuals an advantage in surviving and/or reproducing. Plants and animals have life cycles that are part of their adaptations for survival in their natural environments.
Earth Science	3	Some of Earth's resources are limited.
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. 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. 3.	The sun is the primary source of energy for the Earth's climate. 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 we recommend

- 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.
- Oh Say Can You Seed? by Bonnie Worth
- In The Woods: Who's Been Here? by Lindsay Barrett George

Post-Trip Activities

- Have students write a poem or paragraph about their trip to the forest. Include any species they may have seen. Ask the students to make predictions about how the forest might be different in another season.
- Adopt a tree and use all of your senses to investigate your tree. Visit your tree during different seasons.
- Discover what makes up soil.
- Create a collage using only materials from the environment.
- Debate as a group of citizens trying to decide how to manage a piece of forestland acquired by your community.

Other Resources

Information on Ohio forests:

<https://ohiodnr.gov/discover-and-learn/safety-conservation/about-ODNR/forestry/forest-health>

<https://ohiodnr.gov/discover-and-learn/safety-conservation/about-ODNR/forestry/state-forest-management/state-forest-history>

<https://www.oldgrowthforest.net/ohio>