



Habitats and Biomes

Target Audience:

K-5TH Grade

Description:

Youth explore animals, their habitats, food chains, and large ecosystems by watching a video, having group discussions, working in cooperative groups, and creating their own habitats.

Format:

Each of these sessions can be presented in one class period from 45-60 minutes.

Session 1:

Ecosystems

Students watch a video about ecosystems and listen for the sounds of an urban ecosystem. Students discuss the importance of hearing diversity in sounds in an ecosystem.

Session 2:

Habitats

Youth explore the parts of a habitat through group discussion. Students watch a video about habitats and discuss what they saw. Students learn about the food chain and the food web through large and small group activities. Students also create their own habitat.

Session 3:

Wetland Habitats: The Magic School Bus Gets Swamped

Youth watch a video about marshy areas and then discuss what they observed. Students do an activity by making muddy water and having muddy water races to learn about wetland water. Youth do an activity individually or as a group to determine how we get clean drinking water.

Session 4:

Being a Bird

Students learn about how birds gather food and digest food while doing an activity with sunflower seeds. Students build their own bird nest to learn about the life of birds.

Session 5:

Biomes

Students play an animal guessing game and determine where each animal lives. Youth describe each biome and determine which biome is most like Iowa. Students build an imaginary prairie to learn about Iowa's grasslands.

Session 6:

Desert Biomes

Students create a desert biome and a cactus. Students do activities with various foods to determine which ones contain water.

The "Habitats and Biomes" curriculum and activity kit can be borrowed for one month.