



2ND GRADE: HABITATS AND INHABITANTS

Program Overview

Our outdoor, hands-on science program helps teach the concept of interrelatedness between plants, animals and their environment, and encourages wonder and love of the natural world. Emphasis is placed on expansion of the children's ability to observe and think carefully about their surroundings. There will be exploration, questions and answers, and many opportunities for hands-on, real life learning.

Objectives

1. Discover and point out the many possible homes for plants and animals at the Highlands Center
2. Describe the four main necessities of a habitat (food, water, shelter, space)
3. Articulate the interrelationships between plants (habitat) and animals (inhabitants)

Introduction

An interactive puppet show entitled 'Finding a Home' provides the background and theme for the day. Each class is then divided into three small groups, and each group rotates through a sequence of activities on the trail. A lunch break separates the sequences.

Trail Exploration

During an exploratory trail hike the students will search for and observe the different kinds of homes that different animals make, and why. We will touch on ways animals and plants rely on one another for their continued survival, and how they have adapted to their environment to accomplish this. The walk also includes quiet time to observe and listen as a group, then create a short free style poem of their impressions.

The Amazing Bag (Inhabitants)

Children touch and examine natural items from our "Amazing Nature Bag". Each item is examined and the story of its origin and role in the ecosystem is revealed.

Pinyon Pine (Homes & Inhabitants)

Children learn about the life cycle of a pinyon tree by first examining and dissecting a seed and then discussing relationships that exist between the tree and the animals and people that depend on it.

Nests and Huckle Buckle (Homes & Inhabitants)

A hands on investigation of real bird nests to what materials it is made from and use that to discover where it was made, and finally conclude with what bird made it. In a secondary activity, kids are introduced to the concepts of food chains, predator/prey dynamics, and the value of camouflage.

Closing

A interactive puppet show and group singing of the Habitat Song provide a fun closure to the day.

**If you have any questions please call our Education Department at 776-9550 or
e-mail jmanleyewald@highlandscenter.org**