

Pictou County Forest School - Grade 1 Lesson Plans

Life Science: Needs of Living Things

Activity: Bio-Blitz (suggested time 90+ minutes)

Overall Curriculum Outcome: Learners will analyze interconnectedness of living things and the environment

Specific Curriculum connections:

- *Requirements for life*
 - *How does my favourite animal or plant get nourishment?*
 - *How are plants and animals affected when they don't get the nourishment they need?*
- *Interconnectiveness of living things of the environment*
 - *How do animals and plants interact with their environment?*
- *Personal actions that can contribute to a healthy environment*
 - *How can my actions hurt the environment?*
 - *How can I keep the environment healthy?*

Materials:

- Paper, clipboards, pencils, pencil crayons
- Nets, containers, magnifying glasses
- Ropes for bio-blitz
- Wolf Island, Ceilia Godkin

Intro/Activation:

Forest School Teetertotter of Biodiversity!!! (and/or using a smaller and decidedly less fun balance scale)

- Students ride the teetertotter as adults facilitate a discussion about the delicate balance and interrelationships in nature between all living things. E.g., "Mosquitos are really annoying BUT if they all disappeared how would other living things be affected?"

Instructions/Activities:

The students are divided into four groups and rotate to the various ecosystems, searching for living things and recording their findings using pictures and words.

- Adults help facilitate discussion and interpreting observations at each centre. E.g., "You found a Yellow-Spotted Salamander!"

Forest	Field	River	Bog
Rope, magnifying glasses	Rope, magnifying glasses	Nets, containers, magnifying glasses	Rope, magnifying glasses

Reflection/further wonderings:

What did we see in our various ecosystems?

How would this change if our whole class walked through our ecosystems? Or cut the grass?

Or drove a four-wheeler through it?

How do our ecosystems differ from the gravel road where our bus is parked?