



Natural Resources & Conservation Education Programs Fall 2007-Spring 2008

Kindergarten- Trees

This program will share the importance of trees with the students and will help them realize what the role trees play in our lives. The program will also help students better understand their role in helping the environment. The students will create a tree of thanks to celebrate everything trees give us.

One 45 minute lesson.

State Goal 12.B1a: Describe and compare characteristics of living things in relationship to their environments.

Kindergarten – Butterflies

This program will introduce students to the wonder and beauty of butterflies and includes a fascinating and informative video on butterflies. The students will learn about food chains and life cycles. We will also look at what types of plants/habitats are needed to help conserve these beautiful creatures. They will end the program by making a butterfly craft.

One 45 minute lesson.

State Goal 12.A: Know and apply concepts that explain how living things function, adapt and change.

1st Grade - Circle of Earth

This introductory conservation program touches on the basic principles of natural resource conservation: soil, water, air quality, wildlife, and their preservation. As an activity, students make a simple “Circle of Earth” bracelet from beads, with each color representing a different requirement for life on our planet. Students will also watch a great video on ecology titled, “Everyday is Earth Day on the Farm.”

One 45 minute lesson.

State Goal 12B. Know and apply concepts that describe how living things interact with each other and with their environment.

1st Grade - Bats

This program introduces students to bat characteristics and habitats and also how people are endangering these fascinating nocturnal mammals. Students will learn the importance of these mammals and why we should help protect them.

One 45 minute lesson.

State Goal 12B. Know and apply concepts that describe how living things interact with each other and with their environment.

2nd Grade -The Incredible Edible Landfill

This popular program discusses the history of garbage, smart consumer choices, the consequences of poor choices, and the basic physical properties of a landfill. Students build their own “landfill” from edible components as we discuss how to reduce the amount of waste we generate. At the end, they get to eat their creations!

One 45 minute lesson.

State Goal: 13B. Know and apply concepts that describe the interaction between science, technology, and society.

2nd Grade - Birds

This program will share the wonder of birds with the students. The students will learn more about the backyard birds of Illinois, including how to identify them. The students will learn what they can do to help our feathery friends and will be making bird “snacks” to take home and hang outside for them.

One 60 minute lesson.

State Goal 12B. Know and apply concepts that describe how living things interact with each other and with their environment.

3rd Grade - Animal Tracks

This program will introduce students to Arthur Dorros's book Animal Tracks. Participants will be better able to match an animal with its track and be introduced to/review the meaning of "herbivore", "carnivore", and "omnivore". The students will participate at activity stations that will enable students to see the tracks that animals make as they walk within their habitat, and therefore the importance of keeping habitats as intact, natural, and clean as possible.

One 45 minute lesson.

State Goal 12.B2b Identify physical features of plants and animals that help them live in different environments.

3rd Grade - Just a Dream

This program will introduce students to Chris Van Allsburg's book, Just a Dream. Through their "My Dream" drawings and the class discussion, students will realize the important role recycling today will play on helping them to make their "dreams" of a beautiful future come true.

One 45-60 minute lesson.

State Goal: 13.B.2f Analyze how specific personal and societal choices that humans make affect local or regional ecosystems.

4th Grade – Career Critters

Through a small group activity, students evaluate how wild animals and plants can be used to manage some environmental problems.

One 45 minute lesson.

State Goal 12B. Know and apply concepts that describe how living things interact with each other and with their environment.

5th Grade - Enviroscape Model

The Enviroscape resembles a miniature community, complete with houses, factories, a golf course, and a farm. Students add "pollutants" usually associated with the presence of these things and are able to see how one's actions can affect other parts of a community. Possible solutions for the problems created are discussed.

One 45-60 minute lesson.

State Goal: 13B. Know and apply concepts that describe the interaction between science, technology, and society.

6th Grade - Trash Crisis

Students will see how much trash is being thrown away and the problem trash has become while watching parts of "NYC's Dirty Secret: The Trash Crisis." Groups of students will then become experts on one of the following conservation methods: source reduction; recycling; composting; waste-to-energy; and sanitary landfills. Groups will make a poster explaining their conservation method and its advantages and disadvantages to communities. Group posters will be used to teach the concept learned to their fellow classmates. A class discussion will follow the presentations to help to determine if one method is better than all of the rest, or if they all need to be used to help keep our communities clean.

One 75-90 minute lesson.

State Goal: 13.B. 3e Identify advantages and disadvantages of natural resource conservation and management programs.

3rd-6th Grade-Birds of Prey- Please contact JoAnn Adams at ajadams@agristar.net for the Birds of Prey program.

Preserved specimens of a Great Horned Owl, Eastern Screech Owl, and Red-tailed Hawk and two Merlins can visit your classroom. Discussion includes physical characteristics, habitat, wildlife preservation laws, and endangered species status.

One 40-60 minute lesson given by JoAnn Adams.

State Goal: 12A. Know and apply concepts that explain how living things function, adapt, and change. 12B. Know and apply concepts that describe how living things interact with each other and with their environment.