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Honors Expanded Learning Clubs

Honors Program

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Ecosystems and Nature Club

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NEBRASKA HONORS PROGRAM

CLC EXPANDED LEARNING OPPORTUNITY CLUBS

INFORMATION SHEET

Name of Club: Ecosystems and Nature Club

Age/Grade Level: 3rd-5th Grade

Number of Attendees: (ideal number)
6 students or fewer

Goal of the Club: (learning objectives/outcomes)

For students to appreciate the diversity and complexity of the environment around them, foster stewardship, and facilitate interactions with ecosystems

Resources: (Information for club provided by)

Various online sources

Content Areas: (check all that apply)

- ☐ Arts (Visual, Music, Theater & Performance)
- ☐ Literacy
- ☒ STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math)
- ☐ Social Studies
- ☐ Wellness (Physical Education, Health, Nutrition & Character Education)

Outputs or final products: (Does the club have a final product/project to showcase to community?)

Community garden at Holmes Elementary

Introducing your Club/Activities:

The Ecosystems and Nature Club is an educational club that engages students in a variety of topics from what an ecosystem is to how animals shape their environment, as well as how the environment impacts animals.

General Directions:

Lesson plans each week include an educational PowerPoint covering the material and a hands-on learning activity at the end.

Tips/Tricks:

Allow students time to ask questions and share their prior knowledge, relate previous topics with present topics.

LESSON PLAN WORKSHEET

(copy table as needed)

Lesson Activity Ecosystems

Name:

Length of Activity: 45 minutes

Supplies: Internet, paper, crayons

Directions:

Meet kids, introduce ourselves, present the PowerPoint about ecosystem terminology and concepts, then create a food web for an animal of their choice

Conclusion of the activity:

Students have learned basic terminology of ecosystems, what a food web and food chain are, and how parts of the ecosystem interact with each other

Parts of activity that worked:

The students were engaged in the lesson and activity.

Parts of activity that did not work:

Students had many observations to point out, we had to adapt to account for this.

LESSON PLAN WORKSHEET

(copy table as needed)

Lesson Activity Love Bugs

Name:

Length of Activity: 45 minutes

Supplies: Powerpoint, construction paper, crayons

Directions:

Present powerpoint, educating about insects and their impact on their environment and role in the food web, as well as where they are found and what they eat.

Conclusion of the activity:

Create a ladybug “lovebug” that has the anatomical structures of an insect

Parts of activity that worked:

The powerPoint kept the children engaged

Parts of activity that did not work:

The students had questions we did not know the answers to

LESSON PLAN WORKSHEET

(copy table as needed)

Lesson Activity Life Cycles

Name:

Length of Activity: 45 minutes

Supplies: PowerPoint, paper, crayons

Directions:

Present PowerPoint, educating about life cycles and their impact on their environment and the four stages of an organism's life

Conclusion of the activity:

Draw out the life cycle of organism of their choice

Parts of activity that worked:

The kids loved the song we played explaining life cycles!

Parts of activity that did not work:

They had in depth questions that we looked up on the internet

LESSON PLAN WORKSHEET

(copy table as needed)

Lesson Activity Vertebrates vs Invertebrates

Name:

Length of Activity: 45 Minutes

Supplies: PowerPoint

Directions:

Present PowerPoint about the difference between vertebrates and invertebrates and how they are classified.

Conclusion of the activity:

Students will play a matching game of invertebrates and vertebrates

Parts of activity that worked:

Students were able to distinguish between invertebrates and vertebrates

Parts of activity that did not work:

Everything went well

LESSON PLAN WORKSHEET

(copy table as needed)

Lesson Activity Water Cycle

Name:

Length of Activity: 45 Minutes

Supplies: Powerpoint

Directions:

Students participated in a powerpoint learning about the different parts of the lifecycle and then we went outside to look for different parts of the water cycle

Conclusion of the activity:

Students were able to indicate what part of the water cycle was occurring and the correct terminology

Parts of activity that worked:

Students enjoyed going outside

Parts of activity that did not work:

There was not a great variety of different aspects of the water cycle outside

LESSON PLAN WORKSHEET

(copy table as needed)

Lesson Activity Traits

Name:

Length of Activity: 45 minutes

Supplies: PowerPoint

Directions:

Students participated in a powerpoint learning about the terminology of traits and how they apply to them and other creatures in nature

Conclusion of the activity:

Students were able to identify different traits, and distinguish between dominant and recessive traits

Parts of activity that worked:

Students enjoyed seeing which traits they have and learning if they were dominant or recessive

Parts of activity that did not work:

It was hard exploring traits that had to do with nose and mouth due to the masks

LESSON PLAN WORKSHEET

(copy table as needed)

Lesson Activity Potatoes and Onions

Name:

Length of Activity: 45 minutes

Supplies: PowerPoint

Directions:

Students learned about the different life cycles of potatoes and onions, and the conditions that impact growth, as well as diseases that can infect the seedlings in preparation of planting the garden

Conclusion of the activity:

Students could differentiate between various aspects of onions and potatoes

Parts of activity that worked:

The students were very excited to learn about the vegetables we will be planting

Parts of activity that did not work:

Neither Joycin nor I have experience gardening, so we did not know all of the logistics

LESSON PLAN WORKSHEET

(copy table as needed)

Lesson Activity Planting potatoes

Name:

Length of Activity: 45 minutes

Supplies: Potatoes, soil, fertilizer

Directions:

Students assisted in planting potatoes in the garden and learned the difference between 3 types of potatoes

Conclusion of the activity:

Potatoes were planted in the garden, students learned the difference between 3 types of potatoes

Parts of activity that worked:

The students loved actively planting and learning from the master gardener

Parts of activity that did not work:

It was difficult to direct the students before the master gardener arrived

LESSON PLAN WORKSHEET

(copy table as needed)

Lesson Activity Planting Onions

Name:

Length of Activity: 45 minutes

Supplies: Onions, soil, fertilizer

Directions:

Students assisted in planting onions in the garden and learned how they onions can be incorporated into meals

Conclusion of the activity:

Onions were planted in the garden

Parts of activity that worked:

The students loved actively planting and learning from the master gardener

Parts of activity that did not work:

Everything went well