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### Ecosystems and Nature Club

Megan Ott

Joycin Stonacek

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NEBRASKA HONORS PROGRAM  
CLC EXPANDED LEARNING OPPORTUNITY CLUBS  
INFORMATION SHEET

**Name of Club:** Ecosystems and Nature Club

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**Age/Grade Level:** 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grade

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**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

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**Resources:** (Information for club provided by)

Various online sources

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**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

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**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.

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**General Directions:**

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

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**Tips/Tricks:**

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

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# LESSON PLAN WORKSHEET

(copy table as needed)

**Lesson Activity** Ecosystems

**Name:**

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**Length of Activity:** 45 minutes

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**Supplies:** Internet, paper, crayons

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**Directions:**

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

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**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

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**Parts of activity that worked:**

The students were engaged in the lesson and activity.

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**Parts of activity that did not work:**

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

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# LESSON PLAN WORKSHEET

(copy table as needed)

**Lesson Activity** Love Bugs

**Name:**

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**Length of Activity:** 45 minutes

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**Supplies:** Powerpoint, construction paper, crayons

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**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.

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**Conclusion of the activity:**

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

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**Parts of activity that worked:**

The powerPoint kept the children engaged

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**Parts of activity that did not work:**

The students had questions we did not know the answers to

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# LESSON PLAN WORKSHEET

(copy table as needed)

**Lesson Activity** Life Cycles

**Name:**

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**Length of Activity:** 45 minutes

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**Supplies:** PowerPoint, paper, crayons

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**Directions:**

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

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**Conclusion of the activity:**

Draw out the life cycle of organism of their choice

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**Parts of activity that worked:**

The kids loved the song we played explaining life cycles!

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**Parts of activity that did not work:**

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

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# LESSON PLAN WORKSHEET

(copy table as needed)

**Lesson Activity** Vertebrates vs Invertebrates

**Name:**

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**Length of Activity:** 45 Minutes

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**Supplies:** PowerPoint

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**Directions:**

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

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**Conclusion of the activity:**

Students will play a matching game of invertebrates and vertebrates

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**Parts of activity that worked:**

Students were able to distinguish between invertebrates and vertebrates

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**Parts of activity that did not work:**

Everything went well

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# 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:**

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**Length of Activity:** 45 minutes

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**Supplies:** PowerPoint

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**Directions:**

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

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**Conclusion of the activity:**

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

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**Parts of activity that worked:**

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

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**Parts of activity that did not work:**

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

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# LESSON PLAN WORKSHEET

(copy table as needed)

**Lesson Activity** Potatoes and Onions

**Name:**

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**Length of Activity:** 45 minutes

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**Supplies:** PowerPoint

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**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

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**Conclusion of the activity:**

Students could differentiate between various aspects of onions and potatoes

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**Parts of activity that worked:**

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

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**Parts of activity that did not work:**

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

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# LESSON PLAN WORKSHEET

(copy table as needed)

**Lesson Activity** Planting potatoes

**Name:**

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**Length of Activity:** 45 minutes

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**Supplies:** Potatoes, soil, fertilizer

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**Directions:**

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

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**Conclusion of the activity:**

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

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**Parts of activity that worked:**

The students loved actively planting and learning from the master gardener

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**Parts of activity that did not work:**

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

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# LESSON PLAN WORKSHEET

(copy table as needed)

**Lesson Activity**                      Planting Onions

**Name:**

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**Length of Activity:**              45 minutes

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**Supplies:**                              Onions, soil, fertilizer

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**Directions:**

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

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**Conclusion of the activity:**

Onions were planted in the garden

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**Parts of activity that worked:**

The students loved actively planting and learning from the master gardener

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**Parts of activity that did not work:**

Everything went well

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