

Applewoods rationale:

An ecological study of place

Stage 1 desired results

Goals

Recognition and appreciation of the world around us are the first stages of ecological / environmental awareness of place.

Slow down and observe

Group: compile a field guide to a 3m x 3m plot of woodland

Individual: compile a field guide to a 1m x 1m sector within plot

Have a meaningful experience of conducting complex fieldwork

Developing organizational [group and individual] and self-discipline skills

Cooperative effort to accomplish a long-term task

Observation skills

Understandings

Kids will understand that

Diversity is an indicator of a healthy environment

Place is grounded in presence

Organizing oneself to complete a task makes the task easier.

Following agreed-upon procedures helps one stay organized

"The more I look, the more I see."

[study will include classification, measuring, mapping, plant and animal identification and the use of guidebooks/ fieldguides, drawing, and writing]

Essential questions:

Who lives here? living and non-living]

How can I figure out what "that" plant / animal / rock is?

Kids will know:

How field guides work and be able to use them to identify living and non-living woodland things

About how & why does scientific classification serves us

Basic parts of a cell

How to make a map of a small area and label the parts within

How to observe plants' attributes, draw and label them

Kids will be able to do:

- Keep field journals and collect data
- Use a field thermometer and field measurement tools
- Make detailed drawings of plants
- Use a microscope
- Use a field guide

Stage 2 assessment evidence

- Production of a bound field guide of the group plot
- Production of a field guide of an individual sector
- A quiz on line graphs
- A test on classification and cellular biology
- Self-assessment
- Peer assessment

Performance tasks:

- Production of a bound field guide to the group plot:
- Production of a field guide to their individual sector:
 - Including all of the requirements for the guide
 - Drawings, inventories

Other evidence:

- Homework assignments related to mapping & inventory
- Homework assignments related to cellular biology

Stage 3 Learning Plan

Learning activities:

- See "game plan"