



Curriculum Summary

Eighth Grade – Environmental Education

Students should know and be able to demonstrate mastery in the following skills by the end of Eighth Grade:

- Ecology
 - Use the theory of natural selection to examine the causes of extinction.
- Watersheds and Wetlands
 - Describe factors that affect water quality of ground and surface waters.
 - Describe potential impacts of human made processes on Earth’s resources, both living and nonliving.
 - Describe the water cycle and the physical processes in which it depends (evaporation, condensation, precipitation, transpiration, runoff, infiltration, energy inputs and phase changes).
 - Compare freshwater and saltwater systems on the basis of physical characteristics (composition, electrical conductivity, density) and their use as natural resources.
 - Distinguish among different water systems and their relationships to each other as well as landforms (wetlands, oceans, rivers and watersheds).
 - Identify the physical characteristics of a stream and how these characteristics determine the types of organisms found within the stream (biological diversity, water quality, flow rate, tributaries, surrounding watershed).
 - Explain the value of wetlands to other living things (habitat, water purification and products).
 - Describe how a diversity index is used to assess water quality.
- Natural Resources
 - Compare and contrast alternative sources of energy.
- Agriculture and Society
 - Identify and describe how food safety issues have impacted the food and fiber system.
- Humans and Environment
 - Explain how Best Management Practices (BMP) can be used to mitigate environmental problems.
 - Describe how humans can reduce pollution.
 - Compare and contrast waste generated from various sources of energy.

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