



Curriculum Summary

Fourth Grade – Environmental Education

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

- Ecology
 - Explain how living things are dependent upon other living and nonliving things for survival.
 - Explain what happens to an organism when its food supply, access to water, shelter or space (niche / habitat) is changed.
 - Identify similarities and differences between living organisms, ranging from single-celled to multi-cellular organisms through the use of microscopes, video, and other media.
 - Explain how matter cycles through an ecosystem.
 - Trace how death, growth and decay cycle matter through an ecosystem.
 - Explain how most life gets its energy from the sun.
 - Explain how specific adaptations can help organisms survive in their environment.
 - Explain that ecosystems change over time due to natural and/ or human influences.
- Watersheds and Wetlands
 - Describe the physical characteristics of a watershed.
 - Identify water systems and their components as either lotic or lentic.
 - Describe the characteristics of different types of wetlands.
 - Explain how freshwater organisms are adapted to their environment.
 - Explain the life cycles of organisms in a freshwater environment.
- Natural Resources
 - Identify ways humans depend on natural resources for survival.
 - Identify resources used to provide humans with energy, food, employment, housing and water.
 - Identify the geographic origins of various natural resources.
- Agriculture and Society
 - Describe the journey of local/global agricultural commodities from production to consumption.
 - Identify Pennsylvania's important agricultural products.
 - Use scientific inquiry to investigate the composition of various soils.
 - Identify how technology affects the development of civilizations through agricultural production.
- Humans and Environment
 - Identify how people use natural resources in sustainable and non-sustainable ways.
 - Determine the circumstances that cause humans to identify an organism as a pest.
 - Describe how human activities affect the environment.
 - Describe a waste stream.
 - Identify sources of waste derived from the use of natural resources.
 - Identify those items that can be recycled and those that cannot.
 - Describe how everyday activities may affect the environment
 - Identify different ways human health can be affected by pollution.

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