

WOODLAND WILDLIFE

SUMMARY

This program is intended to exhibit examples adaptations in wildlife that are native to the deciduous forests of Kentucky with living and taxidermy animals.

GRADE LEVEL: 3-6

ACTIVITY DURATION: 1 hour

SETTING: Classroom Setting

SUBJECT AREAS: Biological Evolution: Unity and Diversity, Hereditary: Inheritance and Variation of Traits, Molecules to Organisms: Structures and Processes

NGSS: 3-LS-2, 3-LS4-2, 3-LS4-3, 4-LS1-1, 4-LS1-2, MS-LS1-4

OBJECTIVES: This program is designed to introduce students to native wildlife and show them unique features of each species introduced and how these features have helped the animal adapt to the Eastern United States Deciduous Forest Ecosystem. By the end of the program, students will be able to:

- Define what a Deciduous Forest is
- Distinguish prey animal features from predatory animal features
- Give examples of adaptations in animals as a result of their environment
- Give examples of adaptations developed by animals to avoid predation

COOPERATIVE APPROACH: This program works well with *Into the Woods*. Students will learn adaptations of the wildlife and the plant life of the Eastern United States Deciduous Forest.

MAKING CONNECTIONS: Students will become more aware of the diversity of our native deciduous forests and the roles these wildlife species have in the forest. Each animal plays an important role in the ecosystem, and students will begin to understand the complexity of a Deciduous Forest food web.

ALTERATIONS:

Grades K-3

Without changes, this program may be too intense for a K-2 audience. Therefore, to provide a K-2 group with comparable content, it is suggested to choose the *Animal Encounter* program with focus on native animals.

Grades 7-12

Without changes, this program may not reach the expectations of the 7-12 knowledge base. Therefore, to provide grades 7-12 with the Woodland Wildlife program, guides will incorporate more in depth information pertaining to ecology and biology. It is recommended that one of the STEM extensions also be applied.

EXTENSION:

STEM

The Woodland Wildlife program can be extended into a longer program in which principles of STEM, Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math are applied. Such extensions can include:

- Add Into the Woods, where students spend time on the trails with a program guide learning about the seasonal plant life.
- Discussion of micro inhabitants and the niche wildlife fulfill within them.

VOCABULARY: Morphology, Deciduous, Adaptation, Taxidermy, Native, Camouflage, Behavior, Ecosystem, Variation