

Living World: Plants and Animals

Students will explore the living world of plants and animals. Three weeks will examine plants including types of seeds, how seeds are dispersed, sprout, and grow. Students will talk about the importance of water to plants and begin a Plant Journal to record observations. The class will learn about photosynthesis, chlorophyll, and how a plant uses light. The group will consider the water cycle, acidity, and aeration in a plant's growth and how greenhouses work! After visiting the plant kingdom, students will spend four weeks talking about special classifications of animals: those in extreme habitats, ocean mammals, and birds. Students will learn about adaptations in coverings, camouflage, and nocturnal/diurnal including a special examination of birds' skeletal structure and dissection of owl pellets. Each class has a mini-discussion followed by classroom demonstrations, hands-on activities, and labs.

Week 1: Seeds and How They Grow

- We discuss various types of seeds and learn how they sprout and grow.
- We learn how plants use water.
- We begin a Plant Journal to update during the session.

Week 2: Plants and Light

- We set up experiments to test how acidity and aeration affect plant growth.
- We examine how plants "drink" water.
- We set up an experiment to determine how plants need light.

Week 3: Photosynthesis

- We introduce photosynthesis and chlorophyll.
- We are introduced to the water cycle and explore how greenhouses work.

Week 4: Extreme Habitats – The Arctic

- We learn about the Arctic and the people and animals that live there.
- We study how sunlight and darkness during the summer and winter months affect plant growth.

Weeks 5: Owls

- We study owls, their food chain and their skeletal system.
- We dissect an owl pellet.

Week 6: Ocean Mammals

- We identify some ocean mammals and learn that they are called cetaceans.
- We measure and compare sizes of several ocean mammals.
- We listen to dolphin sounds and learn about echolocation.

Week 7: Animal Adaptations

- We are introduced to the many types of animals.
- We learn about animal adaptation traits such as, fur, scales and feathers.
- We learn about diurnal and nocturnal animals.