



Lesson Plan

Theme: Plants and Animals have differences that can give them advantages in survival. Those beneficial traits will often be passed onto their offspring.

Length of Lesson: 90 minutes

Introduction: 15 minutes

Field and Interpretive Center (IC) Activities: 60 minutes

Conclusion: 10 minutes

Minnesota Academic Science Standards/Benchmarks:

- (3.4.3.2.1) - Give examples of likenesses between adults and offspring in plants and animals that can be inherited or acquired.
- (3.4.3.2.2) - Give examples of differences among individuals that can sometimes give an individual an advantage in survival and reproduction.

Excellence in EE: Guidelines for Learning Standards:

- Grades (K-4) - Strand 2.2 The Living Environment, B) Heredity and Evolution
- Grades (K-4) - Strand 2.2 The Living Environment, C) Systems and Connections

Objectives (Students will be able to...):

- State traits of both plants and animals that can be inherited that are behavioral or physical
- Understand how certain characteristics can play a role in survival in a specific environment.

Background Information :

Animals can pass down both physical traits and behavioral traits to their offspring. As those traits are passed down and increase an animal's ability to survive in its habitat over time we often see a shift in those changes. Plants behave in a similar manner. The more successful a plant or animal is in its given habitat, the more likely it is to pass on those traits making it successful.

*Helping people discover, enjoy,
understand, and preserve the incredible
natural world that surrounds us.*

Introduction:

Goals: Welcome students to River Bend, introduce the River Bend leaders, and introduce the program content.

Key points:

- Introduce River Bend leaders
- Discuss what we're doing today
- Set River Bend expectations

Activities:

1. Survival of the Fittest game (active game)

Goal: To acknowledge that animals have certain adaptations that will prove to be advantageous in certain situations.

Key points:

- Students will be different types of squirrels. Each type of squirrel will have a different adaptation that is beneficial in a certain environment.

Assessment: Discuss with students what was challenging about different environments. Can they think of how this can relate to real life.

2. Pant and Animal Hike

Goal: To demonstrate using real life examples that certain traits or behaviors are more likely to be passed on to their offspring.

Key points:

- Look for animal signs such as caches or signs of herbivory.
- Look for plants that are younger versions of adults.

Assessment: Throughout the hike listen to student's answers. Are they able to understand how behavioral traits are passed down? What have they learned from their family members and how does that contribute to their survival?