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Nebraska's Wildlife Club; Nebraska Honors Program CLC Expanded Learning Opportunity Clubs

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NEBRASKA HONORS PROGRAM
CLC EXPANDED LEARNING OPPORTUNITY CLUBS
INFORMATION SHEET

Name of Club: Nebraska's Wildlife Club

Age/Grade Level: Kindergarten through Second Grade

Number of Attendees: 13

Goal of the Club: (learning objectives/outcomes)

The goal of the club was to educate and explore with students the wildlife and nature that surrounds them every day. The main focus was to educate students on wildlife native to Nebraska; ranging all the way from West Nebraska to the wildlife found in cities such as Lincoln.

Resources: (Information for club provided by)

Game & Parks Educational Trunks, Guest Speakers: Capitol Humane Society, School of Natural Resources University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and Lincoln Children's Zoo

Content Areas: (check all that apply)

- Arts (Visual, Music, Theater & Performance)
- Literacy
- STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math)
- Social Studies
- Wellness (Physical Education, Health, Nutrition & Character Education)

Outputs or final products: (Does the club have a final product/project to showcase to community?)

N/A

Introducing your Club/Activities:

Each week we focused on a different wildlife concept, animal, or nature aspect. Introduced the week's topic by asking the students what they already knew about the topic while they were eating snack. This started conversation and interest in the week's topic while the students also socialized with each other.

General Directions:

Led group to our location that week (outdoor classroom, gym, or indoor classroom), gave out snack and took attendance for 15 mins, led activity for 40-45 minutes, and led students back to auditorium to be picked up and signed out by their parents

Tips/Tricks:

When starting an activity, always start with a moving game or activity. Getting the younger students moving first gave them better focus for the educational part of the activity later on.

Try to find another student to help you lead the club as an assistant teacher, the earlier the better! The creator of the club was in charge of the lesson plans and overall leading of the club each week, while the assistant teacher helped with classroom management.

LESSON PLANS WORKSHEETS

Lesson Activity Name: Birds Wildlife Unit

Length of Activity: 45 mins

Supplies: Supplies: pinecones, sun butter, seeds, yarn, scissors, paper plates, pictures of birds
Location: outdoor classroom

Directions:

Objectives: The students will create pinecone bird feeders for the native birds that they will discover and learn about. Students will explore Nebraska's native birds by vocally making their unique bird calls.

Introduction: Students will be introduced to what native birds live in Nebraska by pictures and by vocally mimicking their unique bird calls. Students will learn a range of birds from sandhill cranes to the worm-eating warblers. Teachers can find bird calls and recite them to the students through this website: <http://www.nebraskabirdlibrary.org/>

Activity: Students will create bird feeders from pinecones, sun-butter (substitute for peanut butter), seeds, and yarn. Roll pinecones in sun-butter on a plate, then roll the pinecone in the bird seed.

Conclusion of the activity:

We concluded the activity by hanging up the pinecone bird feeders on trees outside while discussing/reviewing what native birds might visit their pinecones.

Parts of activity that worked:

Learning about the birds by mimicking their bird calls and movements really engaged the students. For example, for the humming bird the students flapped their arms as quickly as a humming bird can.

Parts of activity that did not work:

Logistically needed assistance while helping the students create a craft. Handing out supplies and helping each of the 12 students was difficult for one person alone.

For examples of how this craft looks, please visit: <http://www.theoutdoorparent.com/?p=645>

Lesson Activity Name: Mammal Wildlife/Fossils Unit

Length of Activity: 45 mins

Supplies: Supplies: sidewalk chalk, pictures of animal tracks, Morrill Hall Fossil Kit

Location: outdoor classroom and fossil dig

Directions:

Objectives: Students will discover the mammals of Nebraska by drawing different animal tracks outside and guessing which tracks belong to which animal. In addition, students will discuss past mammals of Nebraska, such as the Woolley Mammoth and Sabre Toothed Tiger, by exploring in the fossil dig.

Introduction: Students will be handed a mystery picture of animal tracks and asked to replicate/draw the tracks with sidewalk chalk. Once the student has drawn the tracks, the teacher will quiz them on which animal those tracks belongs to.

Activity: Students will dig in the fossil dig area to uncover the Sabre Tooth Tiger fossil. While all students are in the dig, one student at a time will be able to visit with the teacher and touch and explore dinosaur teeth from the Morrill Hall Fossil Kit.

Conclusion of the activity:

To conclude the activity, the teachers and students will discuss all the mammals of Nebraska they learned about that day. They will also discuss and showed pictures of past native mammals such as the Sabre Toothed Tiger and Wooley Mammoth.

Parts of activity that worked:

The students enjoyed drawing and guessing the animal tracks.

Parts of activity that did not work:

The fossil dig was a little hard to control as some of the students did not want to explore in the dig.

Lesson Activity Name:	Prairie Mammals Unit
Length of Activity:	45 mins
Supplies:	Supplies: Prairie Mammals Educational Game & Parks Trunk, rubber ball, tape, pictures of native mammals Location: classroom

Directions:

Objectives: Students will see, feel, and explore what wildlife in the Western Nebraska prairie looks like by exploring the Game and Parks Prairie Wildlife Trunk that includes skulls, pelts, etc.

Introduction: Students formed a circle and pass a bouncy ball around with pictures of different prairie mammals. When a student catches the ball, the whole group makes the movement of that animal. Example: skunk, students plugged their nose and shook their bottoms

Activity: Students will explore the prairie trunk with skulls and furs/pelts. The teacher will explain which skull or fur is from what animal then let students touch the skulls or furs. Discuss with students how the bigger animals usually were predators of the smaller animals, explain this by showing skull sizes.

Conclusion of the activity:

Quiz students over which item belongs to which native mammal.

Parts of activity that worked:

Students enjoyed making movements like the animals on the ball and it engaged their motor skills well.

Parts of activity that did not work:

Hard to control 13 students and fragile skulls and furs without assistance.

To rent Nebraska Game & Parks Educational Trunks, go to this website:
<http://outdoornebraska.gov/wildlifeeducationtrunks/>

Lesson Activity Name: Reptiles/ Disguise Unit

Length of Activity: 45 mins

Supplies: Supplies: pipe cleaners, pony beads, googly eyes, glue-gun, paper bowls, construction paper, glue, markers
Location: classroom

Directions:

Objectives: Students will explore the concept of camouflage and disguise in nature by creating their own craft to display how reptiles and other animals blend into the environment of Nebraska.

Introduction: Students will engage in a scavenger hunt around the room to find hidden pictures of animals. First round will be with animals printed on neon colored paper. Second round will be with animals blending into the colors of the classroom. Students will be given a set amount of time to find all the pictures in both rounds. Additionally, students were shown pictures of hidden reptiles in nature and asked to put a sticky note on the disguised reptile.

Activity: Split students into two groups. One group of students will make their own snake pipe cleaners using beads to blend them into the environment of their choice! To do this, students string the beads onto the pipe cleaners, this allows the children to choose the pattern. The other group of students will rip pieces of construction paper and glue the pieces to the bottom of the bowls to create a patterned turtle shell.

Conclusion of the activity:

Each student described where their pipe cleaner snake or paper bowl turtle would live to blend well into their environment!

Parts of activity that worked:

Students loved making the crafts!

Parts of activity that did not work:

The educational part of the activity in the beginning was a little too long and some students lost interest in the middle.

For examples of how these crafts look, please visit:

Snake- <https://familymaven.io/kidsactivities/kidsactivities/pipe-cleaner-craft-beaded-snakes-7KHQkSX5zkC23ro84B2HKA/>

Turtle- <https://iheartcraftythings.com/paper-bowl-turtle-craft-kids.html>

Lesson Activity Name: Plant/Nature Wildlife Unit

Length of Activity: 45 mins

Supplies: Supplies: contact paper, leaves, paper plates, Nebraska Game & Parks Insect Educational Trunk
Location: outdoor classroom

Directions:

Objectives: Students will learn about native insects, trees, and plants by exploring the Nebraska Game & Parks Insect Educational Trunk and creating sun catchers with leaves.

Introduction: Students will be explained what defines an organism as an insect; for example, has six legs, an antenna, and sometimes wings. Then they will be handed a picture of a bug and asked if their organism was an insect. Students will discuss with peers then share with the group.

Activity: Students will create sun catchers by picking and placing leaves on contact paper and decorating it. To prepare this craft, cut circles out of the middle of plates, then cut circles of contact paper bigger than the circle missing in the plates. To complete this craft, place contact paper over the paper plate circle, then place leaves, and place another piece of contact paper. Let students color the paper plates as they wish!

Conclusion of the activity:

Students will try to identify the leaves within their sun catcher then hang their sun catcher up outside (if wanted) or take home to hang inside.

Parts of activity that worked:

Students loved picking leaves from outside and making the craft.

Parts of activity that did not work:

Logistically helping each student with the craft was difficult. Might pick an easier craft next time.

For examples of how these crafts look, please visit: <http://clareslittletots.co.uk/2015/09/autumn-leaf-suncatchers/>

Lesson Activity Name: City Wildlife Unit

Length of Activity: 45 mins

Supplies: Supplies: Capitol Humane Society Guest Speaker, toilet paper rolls, feathers, pipe cleaners, paper scrapes, glue, scissors
Location: classroom

Directions:

Objectives: Children will create enrichment toys for the cats at the local cat shelter, The Capitol Humane Society. By making these toys, students will broaden their idea of what wildlife is and what kinds of animals are located in cities and metropolitan areas.

Introduction: Students will discuss what they think wildlife in cities looks like. Club leader will explain "The Capitol Humane Society".

Activity: Guest Speaker will discuss what the Capitol Humane Society does. Guest speaker will do an activity with the students then read a children's book to them. Guest Speaker can bring an adoptable pet that the students got to touch.

Conclusion of the activity:

Students reviewed what kind of wildlife is in cities.

Parts of activity that worked:

The live guest animal really encouraged the students to listen to the guest speaker.

Parts of activity that did not work:

Planned too many activities. Didn't have enough time for the cat enrichment toys.

Lesson Activity Name: Wild Bird Tagging Unit

Length of Activity: 45 mins

Supplies: Supplies: Guest Speaker from the School of Natural Resources
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Location: classroom

Directions:

Objectives: Students will get to understand how conservation biologists tag birds in the wild and the students will get to make their own tags for themselves to fully understand the process.

Introduction: Students were asked and introduced to the idea of tagging wild birds. Students were explained how each tag is special for each bird and each color on the tag means a different piece of information. Students were told why tagging was important to conservation biology.

Activity: Students were asked questions, such as were they born out of state or their birthday, to distinguish which color of bead they receive. After they received a bead, they would put it on their pipe cleaner bird tagging bracelets. At the end, each students' bracelet was a different color selection and it explained how birds are tagged in the wild.

Conclusion of the activity:

To conclude, each student held up their bracelet to see how each bracelet colors were different. This concluded how in the wild birds' bracelets are different from each other to be unique identifiers.

Parts of activity that worked:

The activity explained very well how conversation biologists do their jobs tagging wild birds!

Parts of activity that did not work:

The activity was short. Should have planned a back-up activity.

Lesson Activity Name: Exotic Wildlife Unit- Lincoln Children's Zoo

Length of Activity: 45 mins

Supplies: Supplies: Guest Speaker from the Lincoln's Children's Zoo
Location: classroom

Directions:

Objectives: Students will be able to interact with live animals native to Nebraska.

Introduction: Students will go over what the rules and expectations are for guest speakers and animals.

Activity: A guest speaker from the Children's Lincoln Zoo will come and share their animal guests; a turtle, corn snake, and skunk.

Conclusion of the activity:

Students will reflect on what animals they saw that day and jobs in wildlife.

Parts of activity that worked:

Students were able to conclude what they have learned throughout the club to real live animals. For example, students already knew information about Nebraska turtles from our reptile unit. Additionally, students get to feel and touch each animal!

Parts of activity that did not work:

The speaker from the zoo cost money. Had to fundraise for the speaker.
