

## **WOODLAND EXPLORATION**

**Lesson By:** Kristie Ridgeway & Alex Bortner

**Grade Level:** 4<sup>th</sup> grade

**Focus:** This lesson will address an overall understanding of the term biodiversity pertaining to woodland.

### **Objectives:**

1. Students will explore the term biodiversity through various activities that allow them to explore their surrounding environment.
2. Define the different layers of the forest as well as the animals that live in each layer.

### **Standards:**

#### **ENG 4.7.1 2006**

Ask thoughtful questions and respond orally to relevant questions.

#### **ENG 4.7.15 2006**

Connect and related experiences and ideas to those of the speaker.

#### **SC 4.1.1 2000**

Observe and describe that scientific investigations generally work the same way in different places.

#### **SC 4.2.5 2000**

Write descriptions of investigations, using observations and other evidence as support for explanations.

#### **SC 4.4.2 2000**

Investigate, observe, and describe that insects and various other organisms depend on dead plant and animal material for food.

#### **SC 4.4.3 2000**

Observe and describe that organisms interact with one another in various ways, such as providing food, pollination, and seed dispersal.

#### **SC 4.4.6 2000**

Explain how in all environments, organisms are growing, dying, and decaying, and new organisms are being produced by the old ones.

### **Background:**

Background material is found in the Teacher's Guide.

### **Materials:**

1. Worksheet (Explorer's Guide)
2. Pencil

### **Procedure: (60 Minutes Total)**

1. Go on a hike through the woods using the tree identification trail.
2. Sketch the different layers in the forest as you are hiking.
3. Observe wildlife and discuss why they live where they do. If no wildlife is seen discuss with students possible places where they could live like holes, dead tree cavities, logs, etc. When you do pass those potential places ask the students what wildlife creature

could possibly make that its home. Ask the students why those places might be suitable habitats for the creatures.

4. Locate a fallen log and identify the different organisms that live there. Discuss with the students the importance of these dead plants and other decaying things and how it helps the environment.
5. Discuss the effects that humans are having on the forest. If humans destroyed the forest then many bad things would happen mainly to the wildlife. If there is no forest then none of those wildlife creatures would have a home. Also without any plants or trees there would be no food for the wildlife to have.

**Evaluation:**

1. The questions from the Explorer Journal will be collected for evaluation.
2. Instructors will evaluate the comments, participation, and the connections made in the class discussion.