

Beavers

Synopsis

K-1st



Summary

Watch a puppet show that shows how beavers survive in the winter before hitting the trail to check out habitat and look for signs of past and present beaver activity. Learn to read the signs that beavers leave behind.

MN Academic Standards

supported during HNC program. More standards can be supported with pre- and post-lesson activities.

Science

- 0.1.2.1 Natural items vs. manmade
- 0.4.1.1 Living things have observable characteristics
 - 0.4.1.1.1 Observe and compare plants and animals
 - 0.4.1.1.2 Identify body parts of animals
 - 0.4.1.1.3 Living and nonliving things
- 0.4.2.1 Natural systems have parts
 - 1.4.1.1.1 Sort animals
 - 1.4.2.1.1 Habitat is made of food, water, shelter and space
 - 1.4.2.1.2 Habitat provides for needs

Authenticity

Students are able to observe actual beaver signs of life within their natural habitat.

Goals & Objectives

This program will:

- Become familiar with the North American beaver's life and habitat
- Explore and investigate signs of beavers presence
- Explore living and nonliving components in the local wetland

Students will be able to:

- Accurately identify signs of beaver activity
- Identify beaver body parts
- Describe how beaver bodies are similar/different to humans
- Identify two living and two nonliving parts of the wetland habitat

Activities

In the classroom:

- Watch a beaver puppet show. This will explore how beavers survive in the winter in their lodges.

In the field:

- Hike the trails searching for old or new beaver activity.
- Look for living and non-living things in the wetland habitat by using a scavenger hunt.
- Play a game that will help students understand how beaver bodies can be similar to humans and how they are different.
- Look at beaver pelt, skull, and/or diagram of a beaver lodge.
- Have a friendly competition to see who can replicate a beaver chew using carrots (be aware of student allergies).
- Play a game that reflects beaver survival
- Build a beaver lodge in the woods

Indoor options in case of bad weather

- Look at a beaver skin, track, and skull
- Create a model or diagram of a beaver lodge
- Play Beaver Scramble (parachute game)