

Beavers

Synopsis

2nd-6th, upper



Hartley
Nature Center

MN Academic Standards

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

Science

- 2.4.1.1 Living things are diverse
- 3.1.1.1.1 Support claims with evidence
- 3.4.1.1.1 Growth, survive, reproduce
- 3.4.3.2.1 Generational traits
- 5.4.1.1.1 Plant and animal structures
- 5.4.2.1.1 MN natural systems
- 5.4.2.1.2 parts of system
- 5.4.4.1.1 Human interaction with natural systems
- 7.4.2.1.1 Populations and communities
- 7.4.2.1.2 Predator/prey
- 7.4.2.1.3 Limits of population
- 9.4.2.1.1 Carrying capacity
- 9.4.2.1.2 Introduction of new species
- 9.4.3.3.5 Natural selection

Language Arts

- 0.8.1.1 D, 0.8.3.3; 1.8.1.1 C, E; 1.8.3.3;
- 2.8.1.1 C, E; 2.8.3.3; 3.8.1.1 C, D, F;
- 3.8.3.3, 4.8.1.1 C, D; 4.8.3.3; 5.8.1.1 C, D;
- 5.8.3.3; 6.9.1.1 C, D 7.9.1.1 C, D; 8.9.1.1 C, D; 9.9.1.1 C, 11.9.1.1 C

Authenticity

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

Goals & Objectives

This program will:

- Familiarize students with the North American beaver's life and adaptations
- Develop an understanding of a beaver's habitat needs and preferences
- Understand how beaver activity affects the environment

Students will be able to:

- Differentiate between a beaver lodge and dam, and recall the role each plays in a beaver's life
- Explain several physical adaptations of a beaver
- Identify signs of beaver activity

Activities

In the classroom:

- Beaver dress up—one student is transformed into a beaver, dressing the student in a beaver costume piece by piece. Adaptations are highlighted. (2nd-6th grade)

In the field:

- Walk through Hartley Park searching for old or new beaver activity.
- Look for old and new beaver chews, identify tree species chewed, and determine why beavers would have been active in specific areas.
- 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.

Indoor options in case of bad weather

- Look at a beaver fur, track, and skull
- Create a model or diagram of a beaver lodge
- Play Beaver Scramble (2nd-6th)
- Carrot Chew
- Put on a beaver play about the life of a beaver and how it affects the animals in its environment (2nd-6th)