

Beavers

Synopsis

K-1st



Hartley
Nature Center

MN Academic Standards

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

Science

- 0.1.1.2.1 Observation of natural world
- 0.4.1.1 Observable characteristics
 - 0.4.1.1.1 Observe plants and animals
 - 0.4.1.1.2 Identify body parts of animals
 - 0.4.1.1.3 Living vs nonliving
- 0.4.2.1.1 Natural systems have parts
 - 1.1.1.1.1 Support answer with obs.
 - 1.4.2.1.1 Animal needs for survival
 - 1.4.2.1.2 Habitat provides for needs

Social studies

- 0.2.1.1.1 Need vs. want
- 1.2.3.3.1 Scarcity

Language Arts

- 0.8.1.1 D; 0.8.3.3;
- 1.8.1.1 C, E; 1.8.3.3

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
- 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:

- Walk through Hartley Park 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).
- Build a beaver lodge in the woods

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 (parachute game)