

NATURE WALK

Grade K-8



OBSERVE AND SKETCH THE ENVIRONMENT

Students will go on an observation nature walk

AHOJ!

5 min

Ahoj is Slovak for hello! (Pronounced Ah-hoy)

Greet your students. Be friendly. Use their name, ask a question, give a high five, or thumbs-up! Take roll. Mark down which students took a snack and tally how many snacks were given out.

SNACK/FREEPLAY

30 min

Enjoy Free Play:

Students will have their snack and enjoy time to free play.

STORY TIME

15 min

Read the story:

Read the story of the day. Older students may choose to read their own books.

STEM TIME

50 min

Materials:

- Living organism sheets
- Nature walk sheets
- Pencils
- Cut and paste identification sheet
- Scissors
- Glue

Nature Walk and Living Organisms

Students cut and paste organism cards, and go on a nature walk.

Instructions:

Say- "Today we're going outside for class to do some science observing for ourselves! Remember that we can find living things everywhere—from down by our toes to high in the sky."

For today's activity, students will go on a big nature walk across campus for 30-40 minutes. Have students bring their water bottles, clipboards, journal sheet, and pencils so they can take time to stop in the shade to record their findings while they are outside. The STEM Coach is welcome to bring binoculars for students to share as well as download the SEEK app to help students identify animals and plants. The goal is to find and record in their journals as many new plants and animals as possible.

Older students will go first. On their nature walk they will collect a special natural object (pine cone, leaf, rock, etc) to bring back and draw for their nature journaling. Give the students 15 min to draw in their nature journals (music is optional).

While the older students are out the younger students will be doing a cut and paste identification activity (optional for older students if there is time). Students will cut out all the pictures on page 57 and paste them on page 59 where they think they'd be most likely to find them. When they complete the activity, the younger students can go out on their nature walk.

SPORTS/GAMES

25 min

*Older students may practice their sport if they don't want to play the game.

Bird Nest

Objective- Players will take turns calling bird names and running to find a seat.

Instructions- Have the players sit in a circle. The STEM Coach will choose a few types of birds to use in the game. They will introduce these bird names to the players and encourage them to remember these names. The STEM Coach will go around to each student and whisper the name of a bird to them. The STEM Coach must make sure to have the same number of each bird. Such as five woodpeckers, five blue jays, five doves, etc. One player will be chosen to begin the game. They will stand in the middle and call out the name of a bird. All players with the name of that bird must swap seats, and the player in the middle will run to try to find an open seat. The player who is left standing is now in the middle. When the player in the middle calls "Bird's Nest" everyone must get up and run to find a seat.

Ask: "Did anybody find something they never noticed before? Where?"

JOURNALING/FREE PLAY

20 min

Materials:

- Journals or paper
- Pencils
- Colored pencils
- Magnifying glasses

Instructions:

Introduce nature journaling. Discuss why nature journaling is valuable. Scientists learn things by paying attention, looking at details and using those observations to either answer questions or come up with new ones!

Students will observe the nature object they collected and will draw and write about the things they observe.

1. The leader role models how to use the phrases "I notice...", "I wonder..." and "it reminds me of..."
2. Encourage students to quietly observe their object for ~30 seconds, noticing its feel, smell, color, shape, different parts, etc.
3. Have students spend 15 minutes drawing their object.

CLEAN UP/DISMISSAL

5 min

Clean up/pack up/dismissal

Clean up, pack up and practice lining up.

