



BIRDS AND BUGS

Grade K-8



BIRD WATCHING AND BUG CATCHING

Students will go on an adventure and explore for birds and bugs. Students can collect an insect in a test tube and look at it under their microscopes, or simply draw it.

Optional- You can order caterpillars from Insect Lore and watch them go through metamorphosis, or find a caterpillar and put it in a clear container with holes, or a terrarium.

NAMASTE!

5 min

Namaste is Hindi for hello!

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

Bird Watching and Bug Catching

Students will go exploring to observe the wildlife around them.

Materials:

- Tedros test tubes or other container for student to collect a bug
- *Opt-
- Binoculars
- Microscopes
- Caterpillars from Insect Lore
- Container to observe a live caterpillar

Instructions:

Today students will be going outside to observe the birds and bugs on campus, and they will write about their observations in their nature journal.

1. Allow students to take time to explore! Encourage them to look under rocks, in the grass, in the bushes, and up in the air.
2. When the students have made their observations and discoveries they may choose to collect a bug to continue to observe it in a test tube under the microscope. Remind them to be gentle with the bug and release it outside when they have finished their observations.
3. Allow students 15 minutes or so to write and draw a nature journal entry about the things they noticed and learned during their exploration.

Instructions: Care for a Baby Insect

An optional activity that is fun to do is to care for a baby insect. Decide what type of insect to raise. You can order ladybug larvae or caterpillars online and watch them transform in your classroom. You can also find some type of insect larvae outside and put it in a terrarium to watch it change over the month.



SPORTS / GAMES

25 min

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

Walk Like an Animal

Objective- Students will try out different styles of animal walks.

Instructions- Choose a space for the activity such as a half-court of a basketball court. Have the players line up on one end, about arms-length apart. The STEM Coach will call out different types of animals and players will try walking like that animal as they go from one end of the play area to the other.

Walks can include:

- Bear Walk- walk on hands and feet with the front half of the body facing downward, and the bottom up in the air with long legs.
- Crab Walk- walk in a tabletop position with hands and feet on the ground and the belly up.
- Monkey Walk- walk on hands and feet in a squatted position, or in a squatted position with arms swinging from side to side.
- Frog Hop- squat and hop on hands and feet
- Penguin- walk with wobble and shuffle like motions, with quick short and quick steps and with arms and legs together.
- Kangaroo- hop up in big jumps
- Horse- make big gallop-like leaps with one foot forward at a time.
- Elephant- put arms together out in front of the body and make big swinging motions from side to side.

JOURNALING / FREE PLAY

20 min

Materials:

- Journals or paper
- Pencils
- Colored pencils

Instructions:

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!

How many different kinds of insects and birds could they find? What do they notice about the creatures they see? What stages of life were some of the insects in: egg, larvae, pupa, or adult? What colors, shapes, and sizes were the insects?

CLEAN UP / DISMISSAL

5 min

Clean up/pack up/dismissal

Clean up, pack up and practice lining up.

