

Plant Communities - 1.5hr

Using on the five senses, students will explore the role of plants by contrasting deciduous forest, grassland and pine forest communities. Small groups will investigate the deciduous forest with magnifying glasses, learn about the grassland by pretending to be fire, and explore the life in the pine forest.

Before you go

Inform students that they will be visiting Carpenter Nature Center to learn about the different types of plants and the communities they live in. Communicate with the bus driver that students should be dropped off and picked up at "The Lodge" and remind students to dress for the weather.

While you are here

As a group we will introduce the topic but then split into groups to rotate between three outdoor activities. Activities include visiting and exploring a pine forest, a deciduous forest, and a prairie plant community.

0:00-0:30 Introduction—identifying and sorting different living and nonliving parts of nature and discussing the different types of plants and communities they can be found in

0:30-0:50 Activity 1

0:50-1:10 Activity 2

1:10-1:30 Activity 3

After you leave

Have students journal what they did on their field trip. Encourage both written descriptions and pictures.

Minnesota Standards

Carpenter Nature Center supplements standards by participating in benchmark activities. Listed below are benchmarks that students will participate in but not necessarily master.

Kindergarten:

Code	Benchmark
0.1..2.1.1	Sort objects into two groups: nature and man-made
0.1.1.2.1	Use observations to develop an accurate description of a natural phenomenon and compare ones descriptions and observations with others
0.4.1.1.1	Observe and compare plants and animals
0.4.1.1.3	Differentiate between living and nonliving
0.4.2.1.1	Observe a natural system or its model and identify living an nonliving components of that system

First Grade:

Code	Benchmark
1.1.1.1.1	When asked "How do you know" students support their answers with observations
1.1.3.2.1	Recognize that tools are used by people, including scientist and engineers, to gather information and solve problems
1.4.1.1.1	Classify animals into many groups, including physical and behavioral characteristics



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