

ABC Nature Walk

Outdoor Activity

During this nature walk, students discover elements of nature that represent letters of the alphabet. For example, A is for ant, B is for bud. Through journaling or photographs, student discoveries are captured for further reflection and learning extensions.

Instructions

1. Divide your students into small working groups of 2-3 students. Assign each group 2-3 letters ensuring all letters of the alphabet are used and difficult letters are spread out amongst the groups.
2. Take your students out for a nature walk in a local park or nearby natural area. An hour walk is ideal but can easily be shortened or lengthened based on available time.
3. Challenge your students to find anything in nature that starts with their letter. Provide a few examples to get them started. For example, D is for dandelion, or F is for Fairy Slipper Orchid. Students will naturally become curious about the specific names of their observations. If you have a few guidebooks, you can try to sleuth this out together; otherwise, keep it general.
4. Students can write and sketch their discoveries in their journal. Alternatively, if you have cameras, they can also take pictures of their findings.
5. Have each group present their findings.
6. Reflect on and celebrate the diversity of lifeforms students discovered (plants, insects, animals etc.). In the classroom or in the natural area, have students to create a 'poster' for one of their assigned letters. Have them draw a picture to accompany their letter.
7. Promote numeracy and have students sort student posters into identifiable groups. Many options exist, for example, sort by colour, species or size (smallest to biggest).
8. Compile all student posters to create a classroom alphabet book or tape them to your classroom wall, creating your personal classroom alphabet line.

Materials:

- Writing Journals
- Pencil, crayons, pencil crayons
- various reference guides (flowers, trees, birds, insects)
- paper
- Camera (optional)

Discussion

Spending time in nature and observing “nature neighbours” supports student awareness of whom they share their world. When students learn names of their “nature neighbours”, this fosters a relationship with the plants, animals, insects and others they discover supporting a deeper awareness of Alberta’s biodiversity.