

Structured for Survival

Outdoor Activity

Visiting a natural area or nearby nature students observe and record the variety of animals including insects and spiders they see. Students also make record of the various body parts and potential functions of those parts and compare them to their own.

Instructions

Discuss the characteristics of the classes or groups of animal life including mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, insects and spiders. Pose a variety of questions to your students to get them thinking about animals in your area. What types of animals live in your local area? What adaptations might they have to survive? How are their bodies structured compared to people?

1. Visit a local natural area or nearby nature and walk a planned route.
2. Have students observe and record information on wildlife they observe.
3. Using guides have students attempt to identify the animals they observed.

Materials:

- “What Did I See?” & “Structures for Survival” data sheets – See Link <https://albertaparks.ca/media/6498310/nature-source-structured-for-survival.pdf>
- Field Guides/ID Guides

Discussion

Review with students the variety of animals, insects and spiders observed and recorded on your exploration of the natural area. Assist students in trying to identify the various animals observed. Some you may easily know (e.g. chickadee) others you may only be able to get into a larger group (e.g. beetle).

Have students complete the “Structures for Survival” chart to consider body parts, form, and function. How do various animal body parts and their related functions compare to our body parts and functions?

Further pose questions and discuss how various body parts and what animals use them for help them survive.