



**FONTENELLE
FOREST**

Fontenelle Forest Nature Center
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Critters Close-Up & Critters on the Move

Pre- and Post-Trip Activity Suggestions

PreK, K, 1st, & 2nd

Below are pre- and post-visit field trip activities that can be done either indoors or on your school grounds. We encourage you to give serious consideration to one or more of these -- they will enhance your class' field trip experience and are also a lot of fun!

We look forward to your students' arrival and anticipate providing them with a fun and educational experience. If you have any questions, please call us at 402-731-3140.

The following activities meet NE State Science Standards: SC 2.1.1, 2.3.1, & 2.3.4

Activity: Animal Picture Search

Suggested Timing: Pre-Trip

Time: 30 minutes

Location: Indoors/Outdoors

Materials: pictures of animals cut out from magazines or clip-art, tape

Procedure: Place pictures of animals around the classroom or schoolyard and let students see how many they can find. The pictures can be collected when found or left up for other class members to find. This is great practice for using observation skills in the forest!

Activity: Schoolyard Animal Map

Materials: large piece of paper, markers or crayons

Suggested Timing: Pre-Trip or Post-Trip, on-going

Time: Initially 30 minutes, then on-going

Location: Indoors

Materials: Large piece of paper, crayons/markers, magazine pictures of animals (*optional*)

Procedure: As a class, generate a list of animals the students expect to see. Make a generalized map of the schoolyard or outdoor play area. Put the map on a wall close to a window; record animal sightings within this area by drawing the animals, or using magazine pictures of the animals, on the corresponding map location. Try to notice if there is any difference in what animals are seen in different months (you can make a new map for each season) or if certain types of animals are seen more often in certain parts of the yard. Do the animals the students have seen match the list of expected animals?

Math Extension: create a picture graph to represent the number of amphibians, reptiles, mammals, and birds seen.

Activity: Toilet Paper Roll Binoculars

Suggested Timing: Pre-Trip or Post-Trip

Time: 30 minutes

Location: Indoors

Materials: two empty toilet paper rolls per student, tape or stapler, string, hole punch and crayons

Procedure: Tape two rolls together into binocular shape. Rolls can be colored or decorated before being taped together. (Optional: punch holes in outside edges of binocular and run string through so that binoculars can be worn around neck.) This is great for practicing observational skills and focusing on small areas.

Writing Extension: Write 5 adjectives of an object seen through the TP binoculars

Activity: Hole Hunt

Suggested Timing: Post-Trip

Time: 30 minutes

Location: Outdoors

Materials: paper, hole punch

Procedure: Discuss what kinds of animals live in holes and then go outside for a hole hunt. Give each child a scrap of paper and have them go find holes. Once they have found one they return to you and you make a hole in their paper with a hole punch. Only one hole at a time!

Activity: Who Am I?

Suggested Timing: Post-Trip

Time: 30 minutes

Location: Indoors

Materials: pictures of various animals, tape

Procedure: Divide students into groups and have them sit in circles. Have them tape a picture of an animal (can be an animal they have seen) onto each other's backs. One at a time, have students stand in the center of their groups. The other students give hints about the animal and the center child tries to guess what it is. Once the animal has been identified another child takes a turn. You may need to focus the hints (size, color, coat, way of moving, etc.)

Selected Resources:

- Discover the Five Senses.
Fontenelle Forest's Educational Trunk. (Ages: 3 -5)
We are pleased to bring you a trunk specially designed for your classroom! There are plenty of hands-on experiences, books, games, puppets, and activities for a wonderful learning experience. For more information, and to reserve your trunk, call 731-3140.
- Acorn Naturalists: Resources for the Trail and Classroom. To order this educational resource catalogue for environmental and science education call 1-800-422-8886. To look at these resources on-line go to <http://www.acornnaturalists.com>.
- Alden, Peter. Peterson First Guide to Mammals. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company,

1998.

- Conant, Roger, Robert C. Stebbins, and Joseph T. Collins. Peterson First Guide to Reptiles and Amphibians. Ed. Roger Tory. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1999.
- Lingelback, Jenepher, ed. Hands-On Nature Activities. Woodstock, Vermont: Vermont Institute of Natural Science, 1986.
- Sheehan, Kathryn, and Mary Waidner. Earth Child: Games, Stories, Activities, Experiments and Ideas About Living Lightly on Planet Earth. 1991. Tulsa: Council Oak Books, 1994.

Selected Stories:

Barrett, Judi. Animals Should Definitely Not Wear Clothing. New York: Atheneum, 1970.

Cannon, Janell. Stellaluna. San Diego: Harcourt Brace & Company, 1993.

Cannon, Janell. Verdi. San Diego: Harcourt Brace & Company, 1997.

Mazer, Anne. The Salamander Room. New York: Knopf, 1991.

Williams, Margery. The Velveteen Rabbit. New York: Knopf, 1985.