

Connecting to Nature

Kindergarten Class

4 modules x 1.5 hours each

By Janet Ready

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Learning Outcomes

1. Create a Sense of Place – belonging – in nature places – this creates ownership and stewardship
2. Understanding of Larson woodlot as a nature place and part of the West Coast Rainforest
3. Awareness of plants, trees, animals, birds in nature place
4. Playing in nature – using imagination, physical activity, imitating animals

Module 1 –Exploring

Opening Ceremony - song

What is the rainforest? Is the woodlot part of the west coast rainforest? Janet shares a story about the rainforest – engages curiosity raises questions.

Share the intention for the class– go over the ground rules (safety, chickadee calls/howls)

Group goes to the woodlot (fox walking and owl eyes) – explorers – noticing what we see and hear and smell.

Play sardines (Black bears) in the woodlot

Sit in a circle – talk about what we see, hear, feel, smell as explorers in the rainforest

- What is in the woodlot as the rainforest (trees, plants, squirrels, birds)
- What isn't there (water?, bears, cougars...)

Walk back to the classroom (fox walking and owl eyes) – explorers.

Wrap up story (if time)

Module 2 – Animal Allies

Opening Ceremony – song

What kinds of animals are in the west coast rainforest? Becoming animals – understanding them from the inside out. Janet shares a story about animals in the rainforest (maybe First Nations Story?) – engage curiosity, raise questions.

Share the intention for the class – go over the ground rules (safety, chickadee calls/howls)

Group goes to the woodlot (bear walking, cougar walking) – look for food and hiding spots

Play camouflage in the woodlot

Sit in a circle – what animals do we see? What animals don't we see? Go on a tour of the woodlot as different animals – where would they live, hide, eat?

Focus on Raccoon (adaptable, sensory hands – activity where they close their eyes and a nature object is placed in their hands and they guess it – like a raccoon).

Focus on Black bear (story, fun facts)

Focus on Owl (puppet, fun facts)

Walk back to the classroom (animal walking)

Wrap up story (if time) – or draw a picture of their favorite rainforest animal

Module 3 - Trees and plants

Opening Ceremony – Song

What kinds of trees and plants are in the west coast rainforest? Janet shares a story about Grandpa Douglas fir in Capilano Park – engage curiosity, raise questions.

Share the intention for the class – go over the ground rules (safety, chickadee calls/howls)

Group goes to the woodlot (fly like seeds, pinecones) – look for good places to grow

Play game in the woodlot.

Sit in a circle – what plants and trees do we see? What don't we see? Tour the woodlot – guess the ages of trees – how do they grow – what do they need to grow (review what Ms. Mann covered in class). Why are trees important what do we use them for? What do animals use them for?

Draw or do rubbings of some of the trees in the wood lot. What do they feel like, look like, smell like? what kinds of animals would hide in them? Could animals live in them? Eat them?

Walk back to the classroom (seed walking)

Wrap up story (if time)

Module 4 - Maps and Paths

Opening Ceremony – Song

What are maps for? Why would they be important in understanding nature? Who makes paths? What are paths for? Talk about tracks – and what walks on paths in the west coast rainforest. Janet shares a story about paths – engage curiosity, raise questions.

Share the intention for the class – go over the ground rules (safety, chickadee calls/howls)

Group goes to the woodlot (fly like seeds, pinecones) – look for good places to grow

Play game in the woodlot. Maybe build a tarp fort.

Sit in a circle – what paths do you see – where do they go? Where are some important places people or animals would want to go? Do they get lost? What are some interesting landmarks in the woodlot?

Quiet walking tour of the woodlot – remembering our paths so we can draw it when we get back to the classroom.

Walk back to the classroom.

Draw a map of where we were with one of your favorite landmarks.

References:

Sobel, David. Childhood and Nature. Design Principles for Educators. 2008. Stenhouse Publishers. Portland, Maine.

Young, Jon et al. Coyote's Guide to Connecting with Nature. 2010. OWLink Media & Shields. Santa Cruz, CA.