

Habitat Hula

Standards of Learning

Science LS.4, LS.5, LS.7, LS.8, LS.10, LS.14

English 6.1, 7.1

Objective

The student will:

- identify living organisms within a given environment.

Materials

- 1 hula hoop per habitat
- Scratch paper

Background Knowledge

What creates or changes an environment? Weather changes, climate, human population, competition among the population of plant and animal life all affect our environment. Change in the environment can also be caused by the manufacturing of buildings in an area so that trees and other plants have to be torn down. A microenvironment is an ecosystem with a relatively small, localized area, especially of a microhabitat. Within these microenvironments there are various animals and plants that live and thrive off the area around them. Different areas could be grassy, wooded, in or out of the sun, or contain water. Use the following activity to provide a concrete example of a microenvironment.

Procedure

1. Place your hula hoops in various places throughout the outside of your school. Some suggested places are: parking lot (and to add to it, drop a piece of candy/ a cookie in it to show the ants etc...), grassy areas, wooded areas, under shrubs, if you have water near by in a stream or pond, do one there. Have them fairly close together so that you can see all your students to monitor how they are doing.
2. Split your class into groups, or pairs and assign them to the various hula hoops.
3. Students can draw what they see, or write it down. Have them pay close attention to detail. Recognizing spider webs, bugs, if there are flowers and what that would attract etc..
4. Return to the classroom and discuss the habitats, see the discussion questions for suggestions.
5. Discussion Questions
 - What was different in each of the areas, and how does that affect the types of life forms there?
 - What effect did the cookie on the concrete have? (Ants have been around long before concrete, how have they adjusted to this kind of environment)
 - How do we affect various habitats?
 - How do the things in this habitat interact with each other?

Extension

Discuss integrated Pest Management and how that involves adjusting things in a habitat naturally, to control populations. (eg. ladybugs control aphids)



Have students look up a habitat and report on what lives there, and the special adaptations the living organisms have had to make to stay there.

Watch a movie called “Champions of Wildlife” that discusses habitats, and protection of some of our greatest resources.

Make connections with the food chain and how habitats play a role.



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