



1st and 2nd Grade Lessons...

Students will begin the exploration of the world through the needs of living things, how and where resources are found in the environment, and the changes that organisms can bring to their habitat. Activities cover various 'core curriculum' standards. Programs to look at are:

★ • **Water: 'Molecules in Motion' or 'The Incredible Journey'**

Explore the changes in water when heated or cooled, how the sun is the source of the energy needed to produce these changes and how water is on the list of 'needs' of all living things. Note: The addition of Water as a vapor is introduced in the 2nd grade version of this activity 'The Incredible Journey'. ESS Content: The sun is the principal source of energy and the physical properties of water can change. 2nd Grade: Water is present in the air. LS Content: Living Things have basic needs and interact with their environment. PS Content: Properties of objects and materials can change. ESS; The atmosphere is made up of air and water.

★ • **Soil: 'The Fallen Log' or 'The World of Worms'**

Explore the changing and very active environment of living organisms in a dead log as it transitions to become part of the soil. Explore a worm composting box. ES Content: The sun is the principal source of energy. LS Content: Living things have basic needs & those needs must be met. Living things cause change. PS Content: Properties of objects and materials can change.

• **Insects: 'Good, Bad and Beautiful'**

Explore the many characteristics of insects, their quest for resources and their role in a habitat as pollinators to provide food for other organisms. LS Content: Living things are different from non-living things and living things have physical traits and behaviors which influence their survival in distinct environments.

• **Health: 'Germ Busters'**

Students will explore the spread of germs and illness through contact. By participating in a fun demonstration they will learn to maintain personal health through proper hygiene and hand-washing techniques. LS Content: Living things survive in distinct environments and can survive only where their needs are met.

• **Animals: 'Fur, Feathers and Fins'**

Explore the special traits and characteristics of living things and how they interact with the world around them. LS Content: Living things interact with their environment and have physical traits and behaviors which influence their survival.

★ • **Annual 1st Grade Coloring Contest:**

Every year the Athens SWCD provides an opportunity for local 1st graders to learn about the environment and express what they have learned through a color page contest entry for monetary prizes. Environmental theme changes annually.

★ **Denotes Featured Programs for this Grade Level**

***Please note that most of these activities can include a field exploration.