



Athens Soil and Water Conservation District

5th and 6th Grade Lessons...

Students are fully involved in the study of living and non-living systems, energy exchanges, and the interaction of these systems in a functioning environment. Activities cover various 'model curriculum' standards. Consider these programs for your class...

★ • 'Oh Deer, That's My Food Web!'

Through a hands-on activity students will learn about the dynamics of 'carrying capacity' and the 'prey/predator' relationships on & in the soil. With collected data they can graph population changes and discuss some of the reasons for these changes. LS Content: food webs, chains, energy flow and organism relationships.

• 'Building A Tree: Structure/Function'

A tree is an entire ecosystem in itself. By building the structure of a tree, students will obtain a deeper knowledge of plant structure and function while exploring the production of food and the many organisms and environmental influences that can effect a tree. We will also cover the many products of a tree. LS Content: energy flow and roles in the ecosystem, structure of organisms.

• 'Where Does Your Water Shed?'

The study of food webs and chains must include the availability of needed resources. Water is key to the health of a system. By exploring watersheds students will understand the dynamics of a watershed and the importance of conservation in a watershed to assure future water quantity and quality. Lesson includes several hands-on activities that are designed to understand watersheds. LS Content: energy flow, relationship of organisms in a system. PS Content: change in movement of an object.

★ • Soil Recipes: 'Building A Better Soil' Unit (A 6th grade program)

Students will get a deeper understanding of soil formation, structure, and characteristics and how horizons are built. They will understand the physical, chemical, and biological character of soils with hands on soil tests. This includes a discussion on how we can amend soils to make them better. Pre-prep may have students collecting soil samples for testing. ESS Content: property and formation of soil horizons, minerals, and rock contribution to this system.

• Sustainability: 'Feeding the World'

As living creatures we will continue to need and use natural resources on a daily basis. The availability of these resources for everyone's use will depend on our ability to balance our need, demand and use with our conservation management of these resources. This is sustainability. The lesson will explore the needs, where we use resources, how we obtain these resources, and the conservation practices that may be key to resource sustainability. LS Content: organization of living things and survival.

★ • 5th Grade Poster/Essay Contest (2020 Theme is "Where Would We BEE Without Pollinators?")

Every year the Athens SWCD provides an opportunity for local 5th graders to learn about the environment and express what they have learned through the creation of a poster and an essay entry on the topic for monetary prizes. Environmental theme changes annually.

★ Denotes Featured Program for this Grade Level NOTE: Many of these activities can include a field exploration. To arrange a classroom visit: call 740-797-9686 x 6282 or email, teresacaldwell@athensswcd.org