

K-2 Online Curriculum Activities

Cross-Curricular Language Arts Extension

Helping Habitats Extension

Second Grade Language Arts Extension
by SCA Master teacher, Barbara Kulisek

Focus Question

How can we make people more aware of the habitats around us?

Activity Synopsis

Children will write persuasive letters and make a poster to convince their school to create a schoolyard habitat. They will write to the Principal and Assistant Principal. They will also write to community members requesting their help. They will write to other classes encouraging them to participate.

Time Frame

1-2 weeks

Objectives

The learner will be able to:

- Encourage other students to participate in a schoolyard habitats community
- Write a persuasive letter
- Write legibly in cursive
- Use a variety of sources to correct spelling such as a dictionary, wall chart, and spell checker

Standards

Science – 2-2.1, 2-2.4

English Language Arts:

Writing – K.1, K.2, K.5, K.6, 1.1, 1.2, 1.5, 1.6, 2.1, 2.2, 2.5, 2.6

Speaking/Listening – K.1, K.2, K.3, K.4, K.5, 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6

Language – K.1, K.2, K.6, 1.1, 1.2, 1.6, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.6

Materials

- Paper
- Pencil
- Word charts
- Envelopes

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Procedures

1. Teacher will discuss with students what a habitat is.
2. They will brainstorm a list of the different plants and animals they think live in the schoolyard.
3. They will discuss plants that would encourage different animals to live in their habitat.
4. They will plan a schoolyard habitat garden. The students will need to ask permission from the principal. They will also need to ask for help from community members.
5. They will then write a letter to the Principal and other student classes.
6. They will meet with their writing buddy and revise the letter for content and spelling.
7. They will revise this letter and meet with the teacher for final revisions.
8. They will revise again, review with a peer and then write in cursive.
9. They will mail these letters to another class (or classes) in the school and the Principal.
10. This gives the students opportunity to write an address on an envelope.
11. Tell them they can also draw a picture if they would like on the back of the letter showing the new habitat.

Teacher Background

The National Wildlife Foundations has a schoolyard habitats kit. They also have a lot of information on their website: www.nwf.org

Assessment

Rubric will be used in assessing the students' writing (Scale of 1-4)

4 – Student's letter is well organized, clearly written, neat and contains no spelling or grammatical errors. They have used proper letter format and have written in print or cursive. The letter is persuasive and is written correctly for your audience. They have also included a diagram of the garden you wish the school to create.

3 – Student's letter is well organized, clearly written, neat and contains no spelling or grammatical errors. They have used proper letter format and have written in print or cursive. The letter is persuasive and is written correctly for your audience.

2 – Student's letter is well organized, clearly written but contains some spelling and grammatical errors. They have used proper letter format and have written in print or cursive.

1 – Student's letter is not well organized and contains many errors.

Resources

National Wildlife Foundations School Yard Habitat Kit
<http://www.nwf.org/habitats/backyard/basics.cfm>