



Merry Lea

Environmental Learning Center
of Goshen College

Winter Nature

3rd - 5th

Program Description

Enjoy the wonders of winter! Students explore how people, plants and animals cope with winter by using their senses in the wintery woods and meadows. Outdoors they search for signs of life and survival strategies used by native plants and animals. Indoors they warm up while engaging in fun and educational winter-themed activities.

Program Objectives

Students will:

- Explore how characteristics of living organisms and their environments affect their survival.
- Discover there is great diversity among plants and animals and how their roles within food chains and webs.

Program Outline

1. Students begin the day with several indoor activities:
 - Puppet Show: This show illustrates different survival strategies used by various animals
 - Practice tracking: Students have the opportunity to walk like various animals.
 - Making plaster tracks: Students make individual tracks of common Indiana winter animals and take them home.
2. Hike
Students head out on our trails to get a close-up view of what plants and animals are doing this time of year. They participate in age-appropriate scavenger hunts, games and other hands-on activities.
3. The afternoon is filled with a variety of age-appropriate activities. Options include:
 - Games
 - Stories with hot chocolate (school must provide hot chocolate supplies)
 - An introduction to Northern watersnakes

Vocabulary

- Food chains
- Adaptation
- Hibernate
- Food webs
- Migrate
- Track

Quick Facts

Season	Winter: January
Grades	3rd - 5th
Program Length	4 hours
Maximum # of Students	40 Students

Standards Correlations

3.LS.2 Plan and conduct an investigation to determine the basic needs of plants to grow, develop, and reproduce.

4.LS.2 Use evidence to support the explanation that a change in the environment may result in how a plant or animal will survive and reproduce, move to a new location, or die.

5.LS.2 Observe and classify common Indiana organisms as producers, consumers, decomposers, or predator and prey based on their relationships and interactions with other organisms in their ecosystem.

See Standards Correlations for Winter Nature for more academic connections.