DeKalb County School District

Fernbank Science Center

Title: 2412 Web of Life: Energy Flow in the Ecosystem
Level: 4th
Location: FSC

Type: Single Visit
Length: 75 min
Limit: 1 class

Program Description

Students will go on a scavenger hunt in the Fernbank Science Center demonstration gardens and indoor exhibits and then design and present model food web based on their findings. They will categorize organisms by their role in the ecosystem and examine live samples from each category. Students will play a game to experiment with effects of ecosystem changes.

Standards

S4L1. Obtain, evaluate, and communicate information about the roles of organisms and the flow of energy within an ecosystem.

a. Develop a model to describe the roles of producers, consumers, and decomposers in a community.
b. Develop simple models to illustrate the flow of energy through a food web/food chain beginning with sunlight and including producers, consumers, and decomposers.
c. Design a scenario to demonstrate the effect of a change on an ecosystem. (Clarification statement: Include living and non-living factors in the scenario.)
d. Use printed and digital data to develop a model illustrating and describing changes to the flow of energy in an ecosystem when plants or animals become scarce, extinct or overabundant.

Vocabulary

Ecosystem, producer, consumer, decomposer, organism, habitat, food web, energy

Pre-Visit Activities

Review energy flow in food webs.

Post-Visit Activity

Identify producers, consumers and decomposers in the schoolyard and build a model food web for the school's natural community.

Resources:

Note:

At least half of this field trip will be spent outside, so please remind class to dress accordingly.