



Fernbank Science Center

Title: Exceptional Education Arabia Mountain Field Trip E3012

Level: Exceptional Education k-12

Location: Davidson-Arabia Nature Preserve

Type: Single visit, outdoor

Length: up to 90 minutes

Limit: 20 students

Program Description

Students and teachers will meet the instructor at the Nature Center at Davidson-Arabia Nature Preserve (the north parking area). The Instructor will lead students on a handicapped accessible hike through forest and granite outcrops around Arabia Mountain. Topics to be explored include but are not limited to producers and consumers found in this unique ecosystem as well as plant and animal adaptations.

Note: Students should be suitably dressed (comfortable clothes that are appropriate for the weather conditions and comfortable walking shoes) and bring water in hot weather. Students should take a restroom break prior to leaving school.

Georgia Standards of Excellence

First Grade

S1L1. Obtain, evaluate, and communicate information about the basic needs of plants and animals.

Second Grade

S2L1. Obtain, evaluate, and communicate information about the life cycles of different living organisms.

Third Grade

S3E1. Obtain, evaluate, and communicate information about the physical attributes of rocks and soils.

S3L1. Obtain, evaluate, and communicate information about the similarities and differences between plants, animals, and habitats found within geographic regions (Blue Ridge Mountains, Piedmont, Coastal Plains, Valley and Ridge, and Appalachian Plateau) of Georgia.

S3L2. Obtain, evaluate, and communicate information about the effects of pollution (air, land, and water) and humans on the environment.

Fourth Grade

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

Fifth Grade

S5L1. Obtain, evaluate, and communicate information to group organisms using scientific classification procedures.

Vocabulary

ecosystem	consumer	decomposer	moss
algae	pollution	lichen	seed
fungi	roots	stems	leaves
producer	lichen	camouflage	adaptation
phenology	observation		

Pre-visit Activities:

1. Create a school account on Natures Notebook so the class can make phenological observations during the field trip. Instructions are located on the Nature's Notebook webpage.

<https://www.usanpn.org/node/21449>

2. Introduce students to the vocabulary. Have students make observations of the ecosystem around their school and the weather.

3. Define ecosystem and discuss the living and nonliving components of an ecosystem.

4. Visit Google Earth show students the size of Arabia Mountain park.

5. Students can brainstorm a list of animals and plants they may see at Arabia Mountain.

Post-visit Activities:

1. Survey the schoolyard and make a list of living and nonliving things. Draw a food chain using only organisms found in the schoolyard.

2. Review the plants and animals the students saw at Arabia Mountain and compare them to the plants and animals on your school campus.

3. Enter the phenological observations made during the fieldtrip into your Natures Notebook account

Resource:

Natures Notebook website

https://www.usanpn.org/natures_notebook