

# Environmental Explorers



A guide to conservation  
programs for grades  
**3 through 6**

Educational programs from the Brown County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) are offered **FREE** to Brown County school districts, libraries, and community organizations.

The programs and activities listed in this brochure are each designed for the needs of the 3rd to 6th grade teacher, as well as the development of the student at each grade level. Every program offered has been correlated to Ohio's New Learning Standards adopted by the Ohio Board of Education for implementation in 2014.

Topics cover a wide range of environmental and conservation issues. The focus of many of the activities is to develop a child's natural curiosity of the environment and provide a deeper understanding of Earth's processes.



# 3rd Grade

## **Soil Recipe**

Investigate the composition of soil and utilize sediment tubes to observe the properties of soil materials.

*ESS—Earth’s nonliving resources have specific properties.*

## **Composting**

From large scale facilities to backyard bins, composting has been a trend in recent years. This program will cover the basics of composting and emphasize the reduction of materials in our solid waste stream.

*ESS—Some of Earth’s resources are limited.*

*SS—GEO—Evidence of human modification of the environment can be observed in the local community.*

## **Bald Eagles**

An in-depth look at the Bald Eagle and the many adaptations it possesses.

*LS—Individuals of the same kind differ in their traits and sometimes the differences give individuals an advantage in surviving and reproducing.*

## **Macro.....inverté....WHAT???**

Aquatic macroinvertebrates (e.g. dragonflies, etc.) have incredible life cycles that we will explore in class.

*LS—Plants and animals have life cycles that are part of the adaptations for survival in their natural environments..*



## 4th Grade

### **Streamulator**

Review stream morphology using this hands-on stream table model. With this activity students learn about stream formation, erosion and deposition.

*ESS—Earth’s surface has specific characteristics and landforms that can be identified.*

*ESS—The surface of the Earth changes due to erosion and deposition.*

### **Fossils Are Alive**

Discover the common Ordovician fossils found in Brown County and how they compare to modern species.

*LS—Fossils can be compared to one another and to present-day organisms according to their similarities and differences.*



### **Ohio Wildlife History**

See how settlers have dramatically changed the Ohio landscape over more than 250 years of history.

*LS—Changes in an organisms environment are sometimes beneficial to its survival and sometimes harmful.*

*SS—GEO—People have modified the environment since prehistoric times. There are both positive and negative consequences for modifying the environment in Ohio and the United States.*

## 4th continued...

### **C-K-S (Caves, Karst & Sinkholes!)**

Ohio rocks provide a great foundation for these features to occur. We will review their formation & how to recognize them in the landscape.

*ESS—The surface of the Earth changes due to weathering.*

## 5th Grade



### **Reason for the Seasons**

Demonstration of the Earth's rotation and revolution patterns to review the seasons we observe.

*ESS—Most of the cycles and patterns of motion between the Earth and sun are predictable.*

### **Food Webs**

Using Ohio wildlife, we will explore predator-prey relationships and the transfer of energy in an ecosystem.

*LS—Organisms perform a variety of roles in an ecosystem.*

### **Sum of the Parts**

An interactive program where students learn about human disturbances to our waterways.

*LSS—GEO—Variations among physical environments within the Western Hemisphere influence human activities. Human activities also alter the physical environment.*

# 6th Grade

## The Rock Cycle

Simulate the paths minerals travel in the rock cycle. Students will learn about the processes of weathering, erosion, deposition, melting, sedimentation, and more!

*ESS—Igneous, metamorphic and sedimentary rocks form in different ways.*

*LA—Text Types/Purposes—Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, relevant descriptive details and well-structured event sequences.*

## Soil Mapping

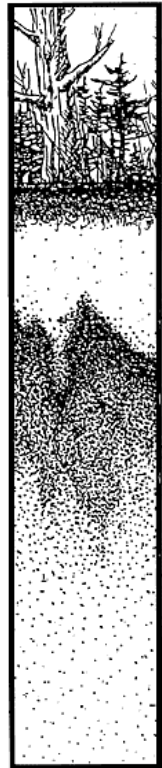
Students will be introduced to aerial photographs and soil maps of the school property to understand what is present under our feet.

*ESS—Soil is unconsolidated material that contains nutrient matter and weathered rock.*

## Soil Horizons

An introduction to soil horizons with an overview of composition and formation.

*ESS—Soil is unconsolidated material that contains nutrient matter and weathered rock.*



## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

**Looking for new environmental materials? You may want to check out the following....**

- [www.wildohio.com](http://www.wildohio.com) - This Ohio Division of Wildlife website has educator resources and information on upcoming teacher workshops
- <http://soils.usda.gov/education/> - The Natural Resources Conservation Service has provided information and links to additional organizations with great soil/rock resources.
- [www.projectwet.org](http://www.projectwet.org) - The Project WET curricula can be obtained through workshops across the state. Check out the great materials available.
- [www.plt.org](http://www.plt.org) - Project Learning Tree is a multi-disciplinary program from the American Forest Foundation. You can explore topics beyond the forest including wildlife, water, waste management and energy.
- [www.cas.muohio.edu/scienceforohio](http://www.cas.muohio.edu/scienceforohio) - The Science for Ohio project is an initiative from Miami University. You will find inquiry lessons ready-to-use in your classroom with excellent reference resources.

**Interested in a  
program?**



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