

Kids in the Creek: A Stream Study

Teachers guide

Concept: Plants, animals, and insects need a healthy home in order to survive. The interconnection of plants, animals and insects and their habitat is part of the concept of a healthy environment.

Skills:

Classify
Identify
Observation
Evaluation

Objectives:

1. Students will explore the stream habitat.
2. Students will identify and classify macroinvertebrates.

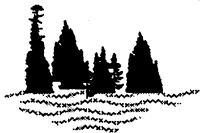
Activities:

Field trip
Color me activity sheets:
Classroom extension - Fish-less aquariums

Materials:

Aquatic Macroinvertebrates Survey
Rubber boots
White plastic bucket
White ice cube tray (for sorting)
Bug ID pocket charts





Stream Study cont.
Teachers guide

Procedure:

From the banks of the creek, and in its more shallow reaches, students explore the parameters of a healthy fish habitat. They will determine where fish like to live, what they prefer to eat, and what insects are indicator species.

Background: Many aquatic insects look significantly different in their early stages of development when compared to adulthood. These insects undergo simple metamorphosis while others undergo complete metamorphosis.

Metamorphosis means change during growth. (See diagram on page S5)

Incomplete Metamorphosis: The insect egg hatches to produce a nymph. Nymph's may begin to resemble adults but they still may vary considerably from their adult form.

Complete Metamorphosis: Insects that experience complete metamorphosis are characterized by eggs that hatch into larvae. The larva grows through several stages and then changes into a pupa. Pupae are usually encased in protective cover for their next stage of growth. From the pupae emerge the soft-bodies, often pale color, adults. They differ remarkably in appearance from their earlier forms but are not yet completely formed. Gradually the soft pale body develops firmness and color. In complete metamorphosis's, there is little resemblance between the adult and earlier forms.

Adapted with permission from Project WILD Aquatic "Are You Me?"

