

Grade 3 Lessons/Activities Offered at Circle J

*Note: Some lessons are better suited for certain times of the year than others

Oak Woodland and Yaudanchi Yokuts: In the setting of a Yokuts village site, students learn about acorns and other culturally important foods. Students crack and prepare acorns in the traditional way using a mortar and pestle. Division of labor occurred: women gathered plants for food & tools, and men made tools and hunted animals. Students play a Yokuts game called Hoop and Pole, training the skills of future hunters! Social Science/ History Standards 3.2- 1, 2 & 4

Stream Study & Ecology: Students collect aquatic creatures and select one organism to 'interview'. Thinking like scientists, they ask questions that can be answered through observations and then share their findings with a partner. They use microscopes to examine their creatures, learning about the many organisms that reproduce in wetland environments! 3-LS1-1 Develop models describing that organisms have unique and diverse life cycles but all have in common birth, growth, reproduction, and death.

Investigating Insects & Spiders: Students consider the grassland environment and answer the question: Will we find more insects or spiders in this environment? Using sweep nets, they gather organisms and bring them back to place them in Lucite cubes for viewing. They sort organisms into spiders/ insects and further, observe traits to make further classifications. 3-LS4-3 In a particular habitat, some organisms can survive well, some survive less well and some cannot survive at all. *Better in the spring ***Better in warm weather**

Acorn Woodpeckers: Using binoculars, students will observe the behavior of Acorn Woodpeckers and other birds at Circle J. Do they work together? How do they survive the winter when there are few insects to eat? Using binoculars and listening to the birds' communication, students will evaluate the benefit of living in a communal group as opposed to a solitary life. 3-LS2-1 Construct an argument that some animals form groups that help members survive.

Investigating Insect Galls: Students search for, collect, observe and then sketch galls (insect nurseries). They learn about the life cycle stages of the insects and how to identify each stage. They observe as adults dissect some galls and view the insects under magnifiers, keeping data on what they find inside! Afterwards, they draw and label a diagram model of the gall-maker wasp life cycle. NGSS 3-LS1-1 ***Only in the fall**

Birds at Circle J: Students quietly listen to & watch bird activity. They learn about bird nest building & nesting habits of birds. They work together in a small group to design a nest, find a safe location, and build the nest in a way that will maximize the success of offspring. NGSS: K-2-ETS1-2 Develop a physical model to illustrate how the shape of an object helps it function as needed to solve a given problem.

Investigating Erosion: Students experiment with the effects of erosion on differing types of ground covering. How does ground cover affect water infiltration and run-off? After seeing the effects of rain events in the model, students walk through the spillway to see the effects of erosion on the landscape over the past 150 years. Students discuss what we can do to reduce the impacts of large rain events in our area. NGSS 3-ESS3-1

Custom Lessons can be created specifically for your class's needs and match your classroom curriculum.