

Kindergarten Lessons/Activities Offered at Circle J-Norris Ranch

Exploring Insects & Spiders: Students use nets to capture insects and spiders, and then carefully place them in plastic boxes to examine. They compare/contrast insects and spiders, learning about what they eat & how they survive in this habitat. (K- LS1.C) (Best in the spring)

Pond Walk & Animal Hike: Students hike a trail and search for the creatures that live here- their behaviors, homes and food sources. When we view an animal, students look and listen to imitate the behavior and communication of that animal! We'll search for lizards, pond turtles, frogs, toads, squirrels & birds. (K-ESS2.E)

Acorn Woodpeckers: Students learn how and why acorn woodpeckers store acorns, and then they see how they choose between insects and acorns as a food source. They also observe acorn woodpeckers and discover what they are eating (K-LS1.B)

Tadpoles: Students observe aquatic life in the pond and compare tadpoles with aquatic insects and other animals they find in the water. (K- LS1.C)

Animal Hike: Students hike a trail and search for the creatures that live here- their behaviors, homes and food sources. When we view an animal, students look and listen to imitate the behavior and communication of that animal! We'll search for lizards, pond turtles, frogs, toads, squirrels & birds. K-ESS2.E

Busy Birds Nest Building: Students learn how and why birds build nests, and then design and build their own model nests, hiding them along the trail.
K-LS1.B

Acorn Woodpeckers: Students will observe an Acorn Woodpecker Colony & will explain that in summer, AWP's eat insects for food. They will describe how AWP's peck holes and store acorns for winter food, and look for trees and fence posts that have been changed by acorn woodpeckers! Lastly, students will mimic the behaviors of AWP's by catching "insects" or gathering acorns and "feeding" them to themselves or their young.

Acorn to Oak Tree: Students collect acorns from under the oak trees. They discuss what an acorn needs in order to grow. They act out an acorn sprouting roots and shoots and growing. They look for oak seedlings & think about how the habitat meets the needs of the seedling. They observe a dead oak tree and consider what need was lacking when the oak died. The class can take some acorns back to school to plant. K-LS1-1 (**Fall only**)

Spring Nature Exploration and Scavenger Hunt: students participate in a nature scavenger hunt and will use their senses to explore the natural world. They will observe and discuss seasonal changes in the weather, and how these affect living things, and work with partners to complete a scavenger hunt. K-LS1-1. Use observations to describe patterns of what plants and animals (including humans) need to survive.

Tadpoles: Students observe aquatic life in the pond and compare tadpoles with aquatic insects and other animals they find in the water. (K- LS1.C) (**Spring only**)

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