“Basic Needs of Plants and Animals”

Grade Level: 1st

GSE Reference: SKL1 a, b, c

Summary
Students will discover a variety of plants and animals that call Georgia home and will determine what they need to survive in the natural world.

Objectives
Students will understand that plants and animals have basic needs that must be met in order to survive.

Essential Questions
When reviewing Basic Needs of Plants & Animals, pose questions about our needs as compared to plant and animal needs:

- What do we, and all animals, need to survive?
- How do we go about getting food, water, shelter, air, space?
- How do other animals get those things?
- Do plants need the same things that we need?
- What do you think would happen if a plant didn’t get enough water or nutrients?

If your students have mastered the basic needs of plants and animals, you may want to discuss plant and animal reproduction:

- How do plants make new plants? (seeds)
- How do animals make new animals? (give birth or lay eggs)

Vocabulary
- Organism - any living thing
- Nutrients - things (substances) plants need in order to grow
- Wants - things that we like but can live without
- Needs - must have in order to remain alive
- Survival - meeting basic needs to stay alive

Pre-Visit Activities
- Read a book from the suggested reading list
- Grow a plant! Beans are easy seeds to sprout and big enough to look at the various parts of the plant. Have each child grow a bean and label the parts.
- “Basic Needs” Collage! Using old magazines, have students cut out photos to create a habitat for their animal. Students can choose an animal or even multiple animals and cut out photos of plants, forests, water, food resources, and shelter for their animal.
Post-Visit Activities

 **Review the major concepts and vocabulary**
  • What do all plants need to survive?
  • What do all animals need to survive?
  • How do we know what things are living and non-living?
  • What will happen to an organism if it does not meet all of its needs?

 **Plant Trackers** Review what all plants need to grow. Plant an equal number of seeds in three different pots, with an equal amount of soil. Label one pot “Happy Seeds”, one pot “Thirsty Seeds”, and one pot “Dark Seeds”. The “Happy Seeds” pot should be placed by a window sill and watered every day. The “Thirsty Seeds” pot should be placed on a window sill but never watered. The “Dark Seeds” pot should be placed in a dark closet and watered every day. Construct a large chart on the black/white board to be displayed for the duration of the month. Each day assign one student the task of watering the “Happy Seeds” and the “Dark Seeds” and reporting back to the class on the status of all three pots. Have the students draw pictures on the chart of what each pot looks like every day. At the end of the month you can discuss which plant grew to be the healthiest and why!

 **Human Needs** Although people are living things too, our wants and needs are a little bit different from other animals’ wants and needs. Have students come up with a list of “needs” that are not basic needs for survival (i.e. not food, water, air, and shelter). Students might suggest things like money, books, clothing, etc. Explain how we would still be alive without these things, but because of the way humans live we MUST have these things. How are these things different from things that we want?

**Suggesting Reading**

*What Plants and Animals Need* by Nancy Leber
*Do Animals Need Umbrellas?* By Steve Parker
*Learning about Plants* by Jo Ellen Moore
*One Small Square* Series by Donald Silver

**Suggested Websites**

[http://www.enchantedlearning.com/crafts/nature](http://www.enchantedlearning.com/crafts/nature)
Further Investigations!

A Day in the Life of a Nature Center Animal

Choose an animal you met with the Chattahoochee Nature Center and write a story about what it does during the day or night in its habitat. Try to use the words food, shelter, water, air, and space in your story. Illustrate your story at the bottom of the page.

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