

Children Discovering Nature

Program Information

Explore

Children Discovering Nature is a two-session educational program in which students learn about local flora, fauna, and habitats through hands-on activities in the classroom and field.

Educate

First, a naturalist educator visits your classroom with exciting science activities that complement your curriculum and prepare students for a field trip.

Enrich

The following week, your class visits the Durango Nature Center for a half-day educational hike. Trained volunteer naturalists guide small groups through a variety of habitats, engaging students with activities, science games, and guided explorations.

For program availability and registration info, visit www.durangonaturestudies.org

K

Pre-K & Kindergarten "5 Senses Discovery"

In the Classroom - Students practice observation skills, review the five senses, and make comparisons between animals and humans.

At the Nature Center - Children use 5 senses to explore plants, animals, soil, and water. Games, stories, and fun abound for our youngest naturalists!

Durango Nature Studies curriculum correlates with Local, State and National Education Standards.

Suggested Grade Level	PK-K	1	2	3	4	5
5 Senses Discovery	●					
Plants Are Producers		●	✓	✓		
Insect Investigations		✓	●	✓		
Animal Tales			●	✓	✓	
The Watery World			✓	●	✓	
Ecosystem Energy					●	✓
Healthy Land, Healthy People					✓	●

✓ Program appropriate for suggested grade level.
 ● Correlates to 2008 Durango District 9-R Content Standards and Expected Performances in science.

1

Grade 1 "Plants Are Producers"

In the Classroom - By dissecting flowers, students explore plant anatomy, pollination and seed production, and the role of plants in human life.

At the Nature Center - Students investigate plant parts and tree anatomy to understand life cycles, individual characteristics, and adaptations to different ecosystems of local plants.

2

UPDATED!

Grade 2 "Insect Investigations"

In the Classroom - Second graders study insect and spider anatomy, life cycles, metamorphosis, and diversity.

At the Nature Center - Students capture and observe insects, learn about insect habitats, and discover the vital role they play in the natural world.

2

NEW!

Grade 2 "Animal Tales"

In the Classroom - Students investigate local animals using signs and clues to figure out who's been where and what they've been up to.

At the Nature Center - Students are introduced to animal signs, food webs and predator-prey concepts. Investigations may include the relationships between animals and plants.

3

UPDATED!

Grade 3 "Watery World"

In the Classroom - Students learn about the water cycle, watersheds, the movement of water through materials, and adaptations of aquatic animals.

At the Nature Center - Students explore riparian systems, measure physical characteristics of a river, and conduct experiments comparing water movement through different materials.

4

NEW!

Grade 4 "Ecosystem Energy"

In the Classroom - Students study energy flow from the sun and its transfer within an ecosystem through producer, consumer and decomposer.

At the Nature Center - Students experience desert woodland, sagebrush, meadow, and aquatic habitats and explore the ecological roles of local plants and animals.

5

NEW!

Grade 5 "Healthy Land, Healthy People"

At La Boca Ranch - Students explore local food systems at a sustainable working farm, observe integrated growing methods, and get a taste for fresh, nutritious produce. As they learn about human and environmental issues related to food choices, students meet local farmers, ranch animals and get their hands in the soil.

La Boca Ranch

New! Two choices for Grade 2!