



Lesson Name: Forest Ecosystem
Name of Sanctuary: Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary
Grade Level: 3-5
Location Options: At Sanctuary
Time: 3 hours
For more info: arcadia@massaudubon.org or
413-584-3009

Program Description

Students will visit a forest to observe, collect, and study organisms in their natural environment. They will explore how the parts of a forest are interconnected.

Massachusetts State Curriculum Frameworks

Framework: English Language Arts
Strand: Composition
Topic: Writing

Learning Standards

Writing

PreK-12 Composition #19: Students will write with a clear focus, coherent organization, and sufficient detail.

Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks

Framework: Arts
Strand: Visual Arts
Topic: Observation, Abstraction, Invention, and Expression

Learning Standards

Observation, Abstraction, Invention, and Expression

PreK-12 Visual Arts #3: Students will demonstrate their powers of observation, abstraction, invention, and expression in a variety of media, materials, and techniques.



Massachusetts State Curriculum Frameworks

Subject:	English Language Arts
Topic:	Language
Sub-Topic:	Questioning, Listening, and Contributing Writing

Learning Frameworks

Questioning, Listening, and Contributing

3-5 Language #2: Students will pose questions, listen to the ideas of others, and contribute their own information or ideas in group discussions or interviews in order to acquire new knowledge.

Writing

3-5 Composition #19: Students will write with a clear focus, coherent organization, and sufficient detail.

Massachusetts State Curriculum Frameworks

Subject:	Arts
Topic:	Visual Arts
Sub-Topic:	Observation, Abstraction, Invention, and Expression

Learning Frameworks

Observation, Abstraction, Invention, and Expression

PreK-12 Visual Arts #3: Students will demonstrate their powers of observation, abstraction, invention, and expression in a variety of media, materials, and techniques.

Lesson Objectives

What will students know and be able to do? These objectives must be observable and measurable.

Students will know and be able to:

- Describe several life cycles within the forest habitat.
 - Explain how energy is passed along the food chain.
 - Describe how organisms are interdependent.
 - Describe microhabitats of a log.
 - Describe how organisms are interdependent.
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Vocabulary

consumer

forest

prey



decomposer

habitat

producer

ecosystem

photosynthesis

succession

food chain

predator

Assessments

- How will you know that the students have met the standards?
- Mass Audubon Educator will observe students exploring, observing, and identifying forest organisms.
- Students will participate in answering Mass Audubon Educator-prompted questions.
- Students will draw a forest organism and diagram its life cycle.
- Students will demonstrate their understanding of how forest organisms are interdependent by participating in the wrap-up activity.

Summarizer

How will the Mass Audubon Educator close the lesson to see if students met your objective?

- Students will create a web of life showing the interconnections of the pond organisms they observed. By playing a web of life game, students will explain several interconnections of pond organisms.



Mass Audubon School Programs

At Mass Audubon we strive to create learning experiences that are enriching, innovative, meaningful, and engaging. All our school programs are aligned with Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks. Our network of wildlife sanctuaries and nature centers located in urban, suburban, and rural communities around the state enable us to have strong relationships with local schools.

Our Education Foundations

- Place-based education is an educational philosophy that connects learning to what is local for an individual. We help build conservation communities, working with students and teachers in cities and towns to develop place-based environmental education that is linked directly to their home community.
 - Inquiry-based learning is focused on teamwork, being learner-centered, questioning ourselves and the world around us, providing a more focused, time-intensive exploration, promoting lifelong learning, communication, and learning as fun.
 - We are fully committed to creating a positive and supportive environment for all learners.
 - We strive to be culturally sensitive, recognizing and embracing cultural differences.
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Differentiated Instruction

- We strive to create a positive learning environment that is inclusive, supportive to all learners, and sensitive to cultural diversity.
 - Outdoor classroom experiences are structured to meet the needs of the particular learners.
 - Students work in small groups using hands-on materials.
 - A variety of educational media are used, including colorful illustrations.
 - With advance notice, efforts will be made to accommodate all learning styles and physical needs.
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Notes

- Nature exploration is dependent upon the weather and other conditions. A class might observe different wildlife than they expected to see. An outdoor lesson can sometimes provide unexpected, but enriching teachable moments on a natural history topic that was not planned.
- Mass Audubon nature centers each have a unique landscape and will customize programs to work best at their particular site.
- Our lessons can be adapted to incorporate a classroom teacher's needs.

