



School Program Name: Habitats (Woods, Meadow & Pond)
Name of Sanctuary: Habitat Education Center
Grade Level: PreK-2nd grade
Location Options: picnic space available after walk
Time: 90 minutes, Sept-June
For more info: dmccullough@massaudubon.org or
617-489-5050 ext 206

Program Description

Exploring various habitats provides an important glimpse into the way that different organisms - from salamanders to skunk weed, from crayfish to crows - live, eat, and reproduce. By visiting a meadow, a pond, and woods, students will have the opportunity to get up close with the dirt, water, grass, and the respective life cycles that these special habitats contain.

Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks

Framework: Science and Technology
Strand: Life Science
Topic: Living Things and Their Environment

Learning Standards

- PreK-2 Life Science #1: Recognize that animals (including humans) and plants are living things that grow, reproduce, and need food, air, and water.
- PreK-2 Life Science #3: Recognize that plants and animals have life cycles, and that life cycles vary for different living things.
- PreK-2 Life Science #7: Recognize changes in appearance that animals and plants go through as the seasons change.
- PreK-2 Life Science #8: Identify the ways in which an organism's habitat provides for its basic needs (plants require air, water, nutrients, and light; animals require food, water, air, and shelter).

Lesson Objectives

- By visiting three distinct habitats, students will find and identify living organisms.
- Through activities and up close observation, students will learn about various organisms' life cycles, including nesting locations and food requirements.





Vocabulary

Amphibian

Invertebrate

Life cycle

Shelter

Crustacean

Habitat

Drey

Assessments

- Students will be encouraged to share their discoveries throughout the walk.

Summarizer

- Groups will return to the “log circle” where Habitat teachers spend a few minutes summarizing the discoveries that were made and any vocabulary that was discussed. Visiting teachers and chaperones are also encouraged to continue the summation with the students after they have left the sanctuary.





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.

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.

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.

