

Counting on the Stream On-Site Summary



Grade K

Water is everywhere and is important to everyone! We drink water and use it to cook, water our lawns, brush our teeth and for a multitude of other daily tasks. Plants need water to survive and grow, and animals need it to drink. Animals also depend upon water to feed the plants that they then eat.

Water is an essential component to all organisms, but did you know that there are different types of water? Some times water is still, as in a lake or a pond; at other times water is moving as in a stream, a creek or a river. A pond is basically a shallow body of water with a muddy or silty bottom that generally supports aquatic plants and other aquatic organisms. A creek is a small stream, a stream is a small river, and a river is a free flowing body of water, which can range from the smallest trickle emanating from a cliffside spring to the uncontrollable waters of Niagara Falls.

The students will be introduced to the role of an aquatic ecologist, and will recognize the attributes of an ecosystem. Students will then use their senses to make observations about their surroundings, and recognize and begin to analyze the differences between living and non-living things.

TEKS CONNECTIONS:

Science TEKS - Kindergarten:

K.1 (A) – Students will demonstrate safe practices during field investigations.

K.2 (A) – Students will ask questions about organisms, objects, and events.

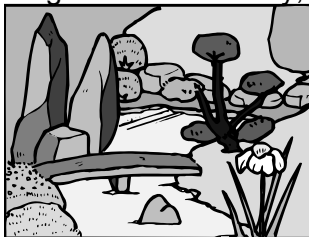
K.4 (B) – Students will make observations using tools including hand lenses, balances, cups, bowls, and computers.

K.8 (A) – Students will identify a particular organism or object as living or nonliving.

K.8 (B) – Students will group organisms and objects as living or nonliving

FUN FACTS:

- An ecosystem is a small community and the plants and animals work together to make it their home or a successful living environment.
- A habitat is a natural place where organisms live.
- Animals and other organisms depend on ponds and other bodies of water for their food and water.
- No two ponds are exactly alike. Their water quality and the living conditions vary with their size, depth and shape.
- Conditions in a pond can change according to the time of day, the weather and the season.
- A stream is actually a small river.



Above information adapted from, "Counting on the Stream On-Site Activity", Elm Fork Education Center & Denton ISD, 1998.