

LESSON: Making Connections

Grade Level: 1

OBJECTIVES:

Students will:

- Learn about connections among creatures in their own backyard
- Understand what plants and animals need to live
- Know how plants and animals interact with each other and the environment
- Be able to talk about how they have connections with nature
- Begin to understand their part in caring for the environment

MATERIALS:

Paper & markers

PRESENTATION:

Tell students they are going outdoors to see what connections you can find. They can probably find some in the schoolyard, the local park, or their back yard. Talk about connections such as;

- A bird eats berries, and then migrates to S. America for the winter or Alaska for the summer.
- A squirrel gathering acorns and burying them in the woods nearby.
These creatures depend on berries and acorns in your back yard and provide a connection between you, your neighborhood and the world.

DIRECTIONS:

1. Take your class outdoors- anywhere. Stop and look. Ask them what connection they can find. Take a short walk around the building or neighborhood. Encourage brief conversation about the connections the students see.
2. Go back to the classroom and ask the students to draw two concentric circles, a small one inside one that fills up most of the page. The large one represents the whole world.
3. Inside the small circle, draw something you saw in the schoolyard or park.
4. Draw rays out from the middle of the circle. (If the squirrel is in the middle circle, the acorns will be on one of the branches coming out from the small circle. Another branch might have leaves which the squirrel uses to make a nest.)

TIME: 30 minutes

PROCESSING THROUGH THE SIX PILLARS:

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WHAT:

- So what kinds of connections did you see in nature?
- Do you see how YOU are connected to nature?

NOW WHAT:

- What happens if an animal cannot find its food source in their own backyard?
- What are some actions people take that bring harm to animals that live in our backyard?
- Can you help an animal in your backyard find a food source?

SO WHAT:

- What kinds of things can you do to care for animals in your backyard?