



Activity:

Birds & Insects Relay

Adapted from Project Learning Tree

Goal:
Students understand camouflage in the animal kingdom.

Extensions for Upper Grades:
Have students search the ground, trees, rocks and other areas for camouflage animals in action.

Directions:

Find a flat open area to have this relay.

- 1) Many animals eat other animals for energy. Use birds and insects as the example for this game.
- 2) Insects often try to blend in with their surroundings so that a predator can't see them.
- 3) Have your students pretend that they are birds looking for insects.
- 4) Use the colored pasta to represent the insects. Scatter the colored pasta in the field within your game-playing area – choose a large enough area for children to run freely.
- 5) Next line the “birds” up, tell them they will gather as many “insects” as they can in a minute; give them a signal to begin.
- 6) When the minute is up, have them return, sit down and sort the “insects” by color.
- 7) Ask the students why they have more of certain colors and less of another.
- 8) Have the children return to the playing field and clean up the “insects” that survived the “birds”! Why did they survive?



Story Time:

Under One Rock

Goal:
Use of listening
skills

Extensions for
Upper Grades:

See if students can
find any of the
insects mentioned
in the book here at
Blandy.

Directions:

Find a quiet spot here at Blandy and
read this story to your students.

- 1) As you read the story ask who has seen a bug like that...? After reading this story to the students, ask them for their comments on the book.
- 2) Ask the students if they have ever looked under a rock. What did they find?
- 3) Where else would they look?
- 4) Look through the field guides to investigate the insects that were mentioned in the book.



Activity: Animal Tracking

Goal:

Use observation and investigative skills.

Extensions for Upper Grades:

Locate a track and follow it. Find the animal in the identification guide and determine why the animal was here.

Directions:

- 1) Go to the shore of Lake Georgette or Lake Arnold.
- 2) Here the earth is moist and it makes it easy to see print indentations.
- 3) All animals need water and it is likely that you will see many different kinds of tracks.
- 4) After you have located a print determine how many toes it has.
- 5) Using the tracking guide you can determine “Who’s been here?”
- 6) Can you tell how many different animals have been here or how many of the same kind of animal have been here?



Activity:

Wildlife Observation

Goal:

Use scientific equipment to observe wildlife at Blandy

Extensions for Upper Grades:

Using field guides, the students can learn about animals that they have observed.

Ask students to report life history of the animal through observations and field guide use. (i.e. Turtles: lives in and around the water, suns itself on logs, eats plants and insects.)

Directions:

We recommend conducting this activity near Lake Georgette or at the Overlook Pavilion.

- 2) Explain to the students that they will be using scientific equipment to observe wildlife. This equipment, binocular, is not a toy. They need to keep the neck cord around their neck at all times.
- 3) Explain that to see wildlife they need to be quiet and still.
- 4) Hand out the binoculars to the students. Show them how to adjust the eye space by flexing the sides together. Then show them how to adjust the vision by turning the knob in the center.
- 5) Find a place to sit and watch for animals.
- 6) Make sure the students do not walk and look through the binoculars at the same time.
- 7) Ask the students to identify what they see.
- 8) Using the field guides from the pack identify animals that are unknown.



Activity:

Arboretum Nature Hunt

Goal:

Use observation skills to search for animals, plants, places and things.

Extensions for Upper Grades:

Ask students to choose an item that they found on the hunt. Describe its location and why they think that it is/was there.

Draw or write about what they find.

Directions:

This activity can be done anywhere on the grounds of Blandy.

- 1) Do the nature hunt as a group or independently.
- 2) Help read the Nature Hunt items with the students.
- 3) Use the pens from the pack to mark off each item found during the hunt.
- 4) Use wipes provided to clean Nature Hunt pages.



Arboretum Nature Hunt

Wild Rabbit	Deer	Wombat Statue	Yellow Flower	Snake
Blue Flower	Frog	Lake Georgette	Squirrel	Chipmunk
Blue Jay	Bee	Prickly Pear Cactus	Fish Pond	Dogwood Lane
Cardinal	Gold Finch	Pine Tree	Seed	Butterfly



Arboretum Nature Hunt - Winter

Native Plant Trail	Deer	Wombat Statue	Flower – Any Type	Place a snake might live
Herb Garden	Pollination Garden	Lake Georgette	Squirrel	Chipmunk
Boxwood	Ground Water Monitoring Station	Prickly Pear Cactus	Fish Pond	Dogwood Lane
Deciduous Conifer	Birds Nest	Pine Tree	Seed	Butterfly Bush