

DICKINSON COUNTY NATURE CENTER

GRADE 5 — NATURE CENTER FIELD TRIP OVERVIEW

What students should

bring:

- Weather-appropriate clothing
- Tennis shoes or hiking boots
- Water bottle for drinking water
- Lunch

What teachers should

bring:

- Sunscreen/bug spray for class
- First aid kit

Contact

Environmental
education coordinator
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Activity 1: Web of Life

Led By: Dickinson County Conservation staff

Core Expectations: 5-LS1-1, 5-LS2-1

Duration: 45 minutes

Description: In this lesson, students will learn the importance of the food chain and food webs within our prairie ecosystem. Students will demonstrate the food web of a prairie ecosystem by creating their own food web. Students will learn that all animals and plants have a place within the ecosystem and the effects of removing members from our food web.

Activity 2: Iowa's Original Residents

Led By: Dickinson County Conservation staff

Core Expectations: SS.5.19, SS.5.25

Duration: 45 minutes

Description: In this activity, students will learn about the first people to call Iowa home and what the landscape and wildlife looked like at that time. Students will discover what an atlatl is and how this hunting tool was crucial to the survival of the Paleo-Indians. Students will even have the unique opportunity to experience what hunting was like in 10,000 B.C. by throwing spears using an atlatl in a safe and controlled outdoor setting.

Activity 3: Mighty Macroinvertebrates

Led By: Dickinson County Conservation volunteer

Core Expectations: 5-ESS3-1, 5-LS2-1, 5-PS3-1

Duration: 45 minutes

Description: Students will be able to investigate the different kinds of aquatic life in the wetlands of the nature center. While investigating the aquatic life, they learn about the structure and function of macroinvertebrates and what adaptations they have made to live under water. Students will also learn the importance of macroinvertebrates as it pertains to water quality.

Activity 4: Native Plant Seed Balls

Led By: Dickinson County Conservation staff

Core Expectations: 5-LS1-1, 5-ESS3-1

Duration: 45 minutes

Description: In this activity, students will learn about native plants in Iowa while getting their hands dirty and making seed balls! Students will also learn where plants get the materials they need to grow, why native plants are important and what they can do to promote biodiversity and a healthy ecosystem in their community.



Suggested Field Trip Itinerary

10 a.m. Arrive at the Dickinson County Nature Center

10-10:15 a.m. Introduction, break into groups

10:20-11:05a.m. Activity 1

11:10-11:55 a.m. Activity 2

12:—12:30 Lunch

12:35-12:50p.m. Clean up from lunch, bathrooms get back into groups

12:55-1:40 p.m. Activity 3

1:45-2:30 p.m. Activity 4

2:30-3:00p.m.: Optional Playscape Time

In order to give each student the opportunity to learn in our outdoor classroom, we try to keep our group numbers small. Your field trip may look different depending on your class size.

10-24 students: Students will participate as one group and rotate through the stations with one or more naturalist.

25-40 students : Students will be broken into two groups and rotate through stations with one of our naturalists.

40-100 students: Students will be broken into four groups and rotate through stations. With this option, teachers should be prepared to lead one activity on the property. The materials and lesson plan will be provided by the Dickinson County Nature Center staff.