

# DICKINSON COUNTY NATURE CENTER

## GRADE 4 — 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 Team

[naturecenter@dickinsoncountyia.gov](mailto:naturecenter@dickinsoncountyia.gov)

712-336-6352

### **Activity 1: Ancient Animal Encounter**

**Led By:** Dickinson County Conservation Staff

**Core Expectations:** 4-LS1-1

**Duration:** 45 Minutes

**Description:** Which ancient animals roamed Iowa during pre-historic times? Students will find out during this interactive hike where they will encounter life-sized parts of ancient animals and learn about the various adaptations they possessed that helped them survive in their primitive habitats.

### **Activity 2: Renewable Energy Exercise – Harness the Wind**

**Led By:** Dickinson County Conservation Staff

**Core Expectations:** 4-ESS2-1, 4-ESS3-2

**Duration:** 45 minutes

**Description:** Students will be able to put their engineering and teamwork skills to the test as we investigate the use of wind energy. Students will be asked to help the nature center staff run an experiment on the best location to place wind turbines to help generate electricity for the community. During this activity, students will be able to measure wind speed and direction of three sites and make observations to decide where the best site would be for a wind turbine.

### **Activity 3: Exploring Westport Schoolhouse**

**Led By:** Dickinson County Conservation Volunteer

**Social Studies Core Expectations:** SS.4.10, SS.4.24

**Duration:** 45 minutes

**Description:** Students will be able to make observations about how our community has changed by making firsthand observations about the makeup of the school. Classrooms will be able to participate in activities such as reading from the McGuffey Readers, solving math problems on the chalkboard and playing schoolyard games.

### **Activity 4: Follow That Map!**

**Led By:** Dickinson County Conservation Staff

**Core Expectations:** 4-ESS2-2

**Duration:** 45 minutes

**Description:** In this activity students will use compasses and topographic maps to find specific locations at Kenue Park. They will make comparisons in landscapes and use the maps to identify patterns in Earth's features. This activity promotes spatial thinking in students and allows them to comprehend and analyze data related to the spaces around them.



CONSERVATION BOARD

### 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.