

I Spy—Wetland in a Bottle

45 minutes

Objective:

1. TSW describe the functions of the wetlands.
2. TSW identify symbols that represent the environmental benefits of a wetland.

Language Objectives:

1. TSW design and create a label with instructions for the game.

Anticipatory Set:

5 min

TTW show students a reproduction of the painting *Battle Royale* by Alexis Rockman from the collection of the New Orleans Museum of Art. TSW play 3 – 4 rounds of an adaptation of the game “I spy” by pointing out different animals. “I spy an extra large insect.” “Is it a mosquito?” “Yes, your turn.” etc. TTW ask students if these animals have anything in common. TSW reply that many of these animals live in the wetlands ecosystem. TTW tell students that they are going to make a version of the game “I spy” and that they will learn about the benefits of the wetlands as they do.

Procedures

35 min

TTW create a KWL chart and ask students what they **K**now and **W**ant to Know about wetlands. TTW fill in student answers and facilitate discussion.

Guided Practice

TTW tell students that they are ready to build their I Spy games. TTW hand out empty plastic water bottles to each student and tell them to take off the lids and set them to the side (Do not lose the lids!). TTW tell students that they are going to receive small symbols of life in a wetland and that as these are passed out, students should think about what each object represents. TTW give each student one of each of the following objects one at a time. TSW place each object in the bottle and reflect on the meaning of each object.

1. Acorn---seeds to feed passing birds
2. Feather – resting spot for birds in flight
3. Small piece of sponge – acts as sponge
4. Small wooden block – home to many species
5. Baby bottle – nursery for baby animals
6. Red bean – filter (kidney shape)
7. Small fish – home to many species of fish
8. Leaves – plants (30 % of all plants in world live in wetlands)
9. Turtles – home to reptiles and amphibians
10. Crab – food for much aquatic life
11. Alligator – threatened species, top of food chain
12. Blue and green glitter – merging of land and water
13. Rice—food grown in wetlands

TTW ask questions as she hands out each object and review the roles of producers and consumers, the interdependence of all living organisms in a food web and the specific contributions of the wetlands. After all objects are placed in the bottle TTW come around to each student and fill the bottle with rice. When the bottle is complete TSW turn the bottle to try and find the symbols hidden inside.

Independent Practice

TSW create a label to attach to the bottle and a list of objects to find in the bottle. TTW provide pre-cut paper and sticky labels. TSW write each symbol on the paper, punch a hole in the corner of the paper, and tie the list to the top of the bottle. TSW attach the label to the front of the bottle.

Closure

5 min

TTW call on student to turn their bottles and see what they can find. TTW ask students to explain why the found object is included in the bottle. TTW ask students if they can think of other things that could have gone in the bottle. TTW ask students if they can name some objects which could be included in an I Spy an Ocean bottle or an I Spy a Grassland bottle.

Accommodations

- Each object can be set up in a station around the room and students can move to the objects.
- Students can work in pairs or groups.
- Students can do further research on each aspect of the wetlands.
- TTW provide visual and tactile activities.

Assessment:

1. KWL Chart—observe that students are participating and making connections to other items on chart (informal)
2. I Spy activity—observe students stay on task and participate in questions/answers (informal)
3. Independent Practice: label— observe students stay on task and participate in questions/answers (informal)
4. Closure: Observe that students make connections between symbol and concrete representation (informal)

Materials:

Water bottles- drained and dried

KWL chart

Acorn

Feather

Small piece of sponge

Small wooden block

Baby bottle

Red bean

Small fish

Leaves

Turtles

Crab

Alligator

Blue and green glitter

Rice

Pre-cut paper for labels and lists

Yarn to tie lists to bottles

Hole punch