

“Picture This”

Activity 6, modified from the *Project Learning Tree Activity Environmental Education Activity Guide*

Created by Kelli Simpson, Garlough Elementary School, 2019

Objectives

- Students will find similarities and differences between organisms.
- Students will sort organisms based on similar attributes, and justify their reasoning for how they sorted.
- Students will make connections between diverse organisms and the diverse environments they live.

Skills

- Observing, Classifying and Categorizing, Interpreting, Justifying

****New Minnesota Science Standard (2019) Example Connections****

- **0L.1.2.1.2** Make observations of plants and animals to compare the diversity of life in different habitats.
- **0P.2.1.1.1** Sort objects in terms of natural/human-made, color, size, shape, and texture, then communicate the reasoning for the sorting system.
- **1E.4.1.1.1** Construct an argument based on observational evidence for how plants and animals (including humans) can change the non-living aspects of the environment to meet their needs.
- **2L.4.1.1.1** Construct an argument with evidence that evaluates how in a particular habitat some organisms can survive well, some survive less well, and some cannot survive at all.
- **3L.4.2.1.1** Obtain information from various types of media to support an argument that plants and animals have internal and external structures that function to support survival, growth, behavior, and reproduction.
- **4E.3.2.1.1** Identify evidence from patterns in rock formations and fossils in rock layers to support an explanation for changes in a landscape over time.

Materials

- iPad/Phone
- 4 packages of pictures of local MN plants and animals
- Post it notes for each group
- NATURE!

Intro Activity

- “What different species of plants and animals might we find on a hike outside today?”

- Pass out packet of local MN plant and animal species (groups of 4)
 - Let groups sort however they think makes sense. Once they have sorted, they need to label each category. The teacher should try to get around to each group and let the groups justify why they sorted/labeled the way they did.
 - Each group can take a gallery walk and observe how they other groups sorted and see if they have any similarities or differences.
 - (if time) Have the groups return to their packet and sort another way. Could put stipulations on the sort: one less group than before, only one of the same headings, all new groups, etc.
 - Take the learning...OUTSIDE! Students partner up into 2s within their group and the task is to go outside and take whatever species observation photos they want. The more diverse, the better! Set a reasonable timeframe for this activity, depending on time available.
- **Enrichment/Extension idea: Send each group to a different habitat within your outdoor space (wetland, prairie, river, forest, human impacted, etc). See what differences in species the different habitats find, this can lead to another bonus lesson if wanted!
- Partners work together to sort their photos in PicCollage (Seesaw now has this feature as well), deciding on categories and labels together.