



Fontenelle Forest Nature Center
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*Welcome to the natural world of Fontenelle Forest and Neale Woods Nature Centers!
Below is a guide to pre and post field trip activities that you can do with your students either indoors or on your school grounds. These fun activities will greatly enhance your students' field trip experience. We look forward to your students' arrival and are excited to provide them with a fun and educational experience.
If you have any questions, please call us at 731-3140.*

Predator/Prey

The following activities meet Nebraska state standards 8.2.1 and 8.4.3

1) Tooth and Claw

Concept: Predators and their prey must have special tools in order to eat and resist being eaten. Students will look at pictures of predator and prey animals and discuss their tools and adaptations.

Suggested Timing: Pre-Trip

Time: 30 minutes

Location: Indoors

Materials: Paper; large pictures of all types of animals (predator and prey)

Procedure:

- Split students into groups
- Give each group an animal picture or post it on or near the chalkboard
- Ask each group of students if this is a predator or prey animal.
- Ask the students to list some tools and adaptations their animal might have to keep from being eaten or adaptations to capture and eat other animals. These might include the following:
 - Predators: Fast legs; sharp teeth; camouflage; large size; claws; sensitive eyesight, smell and/or hearing
 - Prey: Speed, ability to freeze, camouflage, bad-tasting skin, warning coloration, keen eyesight, good sense of hearing and smelling, spines or armor, claws, teeth
- Discuss the advantages of each of these tools and behaviors
- Now ask the students if humans are predators or prey. Can we be both? What tools do we have?

2) Neat Teeth

Adapted from *Hands-On Nature*

Concept: Animals must have teeth that are shaped appropriately for their diet. Children will create their own set of teeth for an animal jaw.

Suggested Timing: Pre-Trip

Time: 30 minutes

Location: Indoors

Materials: Cardboard jaws, brass brads, clay, crackers, apples, or carrots etc.

Procedure:

- From cardboard, create a top and bottom jaw that can be linked together with a brass brad at the joint. Cut the jaw out and repeat for each student.
- Ask the students to feel their own teeth with their tongues. How many different kinds of teeth do they feel? Give each child something to eat. How do the different teeth help with eating? (Front incisors bite; back molars chew.) Ask your students to find their canine teeth. Can humans tear raw meat as well as cats and dogs can? Think about the different types of teeth animals have.
- Give each student a small lump of clay and ask him/her to build teeth on the cardboard jaws that would be good for eating a particular type of plant or animal. Carnivores have sharp canines for piercing and sharp incisors for tearing meat. Insectivores have peg-like teeth for crushing; herbivores have flat, ridged molars for grinding.
- After all students have completed their jaws, have them share their clay/cardboard construction by completing the following sentence: "My favorite food is _____, and I use my _____ teeth to eat it."

3) Critter Capture

Suggested Timing: Post-Trip

Time: 30 minutes

Location: Indoors or Outdoors

Materials & Procedure: Please refer to the lesson plan on the Akron Global Polymer Academy website: <http://agpa.uakron.edu/>. The site for this specific lesson plan is http://agpa.uakron.edu/k12/lesson_plans/critter_capture.html.

Suggested Source:

Acorn Naturalists: Resources for the Trail and Classroom. To order this educational resource catalogue for environmental and science education, call 1-800-422-8886. To look at these resources online, visit <http://www.acornnaturalists.com>.