

Science Lesson Plan

By: Alyssa Miller

Grade: 5

Objectives: Using TED, students will watch a video about environmental factors and Redwood trees. They will work in pairs and construct a list of questions and responses from the video.

Standards:

-5.4.5 Explain how changes in an organism's habitat can sometimes be beneficial and sometimes be harmful.

-5.4.7 Explain that living things, such as plants and animals, differ in their characteristics, and that sometimes these differences can give members of these groups (plants and animals) an advantage in surviving and reproducing.

Introduction: Today we are going to talk more about living things. We have been talking about what it means to be a living organism and today we are going to talk about some specific organisms and their environment.

Lesson

- Break students into groups of 2 and ask them to talk and come up with a definition for environment. Have them discuss what organisms need from their environment and how it affects the lives of different organisms.
- Ask for volunteers to read their responses aloud. Make a chart on the board of what environment is, what organisms require, and how it impacts organisms.
- Explain that the environment is the air, water, minerals, organisms, and all other external factors surrounding and affecting a given organism at any time-everything around a certain organism.
- Ask students if they could explain what their environment is at that exact moment and what it contains (answer should be classroom- desks, chairs, carpet, windows, blackboard, etc.).
- Ask students "How does our environment in this classroom affect you? Does your environment change when you are supposed to be doing something else?" (answer should be yes, recess, going home, etc.).
- Have students make a list in their pairs of different environments they experience and how that environment affects what they are supposed to do at that time.
- Ask some students to share and make a collective list on the board.
- Introduce the TEDTalk video about Redwood trees. Encourage students to take notes with questions they have.

- Show video
http://www.ted.com/talks/lang/eng/richard_preston_on_the_giant_trees.html
- Class discussion questions:
 1. What living organism is Richard talking about? (Redwood tree)
 2. Are these trees like trees we would see around here? (no)
 3. What is special about these trees? (size)
 4. We see many pictures of the Redwoods and the forest they are in. Who can tell me some of the things in those pictures that we don't see around here?
 5. Good. These things make up the environment of the trees. Who remembers where he said they were? (California-show picture)
 6. What is different about California than here that might impact the way these trees have grown? Why might we not be able to grow them here?
 7. With your partner, write a paragraph describing the environment surrounding the Redwoods. Remember pictures and descriptions in the video. Be very descriptive.

Closure :

Environment has a great effect on organisms in it. We learn better in the classroom environment and play better in the recess environment. Redwoods grow best on the warm west coast and corn grows well in Indiana. If we took corn to California or tried to grow Redwoods here, the habitat changes could mean bad things for those organisms.