McDuffie Environmental Education Center
School Outreach Programs

GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
WILDLIFE RESOURCES DIVISION

The McDuffie Environmental Education Center (MEEC) provides teachers a unique site to take students for a hands-on outdoor experience. Lessons address the dimensions of the Georgia Standards of Excellence in this diverse biologically rich area with activities available for PreK through seventh grade. The McDuffie Environmental Education Center provides students with stimulating, outdoor learning experiences about the ecology of our wildlife, water, soils, and forests and the stewardship of these important natural resources.

The McDuffie Environmental Education Center is open by reservation only. It is recommended that dates be booked well in advance in order to secure desired dates.
Fees: $5 per student

We offer accommodations and Adaptation of Performance Standards for Students with Disabilities based on information provided when reservations are made.

Fourth Grade – Food Chain and Food Webs

WETLAND TRAIL

S4L1, PE4.3, PE4.5
Students walk around the fishery ponds to the Blackwater Swamp. During the first part of the hike students are challenged to observe the contrast between a sand-hill habitat and a wetland habitat as well as compare and contrast the public fishing ponds with the hatchery ponds. Student observations of flora and fauna add to additional discussion of roles of organisms and the flow of energy within the ecosystem. Once on the board-walked trail, students experience the wetland environment, learn its important contribution to a healthy eco-system.

BINOCULAR STUDY/WILDLIFE VIEWING

S3L1B
After an instructional session on proper use of binoculars, students will take a short hike in search of various animals (models and live) to observe them within their ecosystem.

For questions and further information contact us at
706-449-7521 or Kimberly.Clements@dnr.ga.gov

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FOOD CHAIN MODEL

S4L1
Using nesting tubes, students will build a model of the food chain of a great horned owl.

OWL PELLET DISSECTION

S4L1
Students will learn the role of owls in the ecosystem and use toothpicks to dissect owl pellets. Students then use a chart to analyze types of bones found to identify the type of prey the owls have consumed.

DISCOVERY

S4L1, ELAGSE4RL1, ELAGSE4RI, ELAGSE4RI4, ELAGSE4RI5

Students rotate through centers and displays which emphasize wildlife characteristics and the role of each within the ecosystem. Students begin with a scavenger hunt for facts using the expository texts located in the display cases. Additional stations may include making leaf rubbings, creating animal tracks, identifying animal furs, using magnifying instruments, and using Mohs hardness scale.

WHEEL OF NATURE

(All levels. Questions are adapted to grade level.)
Students participate in a game-style two-team activity. When it is his or her turn, a team-member spins a wheel to determine how much a question is worth. To obtain the points for his side, the student answers the given question. Questions are based on the MEEC curriculum and include habitat features, wildlife adaptations, and identification of animal pictures, pelts, sounds, offspring and tracks. Models and other audio visuals are used to bring questions to life. Team work is encouraged as rules allow students to confer on difficult questions.

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CUSTOMIZED SESSIONS

Depending on fish production, a tour of the hatchery building may be available upon request. A Kids Fishing Event may also be arranged as part of the MEEC experience.

FISHING

ESS3.A, ESS3.C, LS4.C, PE3.4, PE3.5

Following an orientation on how fish depend on their surroundings, adaptations, reason for the hatchery, what humans need fish for, what the sport of fishing is and does for us and the safety and proper use of equipment the students will participate in the sport of angling. Students will be supervised by the instructor, staff, teachers and chaperones. Students will learn to bait a hook, cast, reel and hopefully catch a fish. If fish are caught measurements will be taken and depending on grade level