

McDuffie Environmental Education Center

School Outreach Programs



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.

Fifth Grade – The Environment

WETLAND TRAIL

S5L1a, S5E1 PE5.3, PE5.5

Students walk the trail 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 surface features within both habitats add to discussion of constructive and destructive processes such as weathering, erosion, and deposition as well as effects of animal and human activity.

MICROSCOPE LAB

S5L4, ELAGSE5SL1

Students learn to view structure and composition of substances such as sand and salt prior to viewing a pond water sample. This activity focuses on identification of various plankton needed for a healthy pond ecosystem.



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

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INTRODUCTION TO GEOCACHING

SS5MGS9, PE5.3, PE 5.5, ELAGSE5SL1

Students will learn the fundamentals of using a hand-held global positioning systems then use their knowledge (in pairs) to locate hidden caches. Students gain an understanding of the importance of latitude and longitude in determining location, as well as hone their skills in using GPS and documenting their finds.

BACKYARD BASS

MGSE5.OA.3, PE5.3, PE5.5, PE5.6, ELAGSE5SL1

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 ROOM

S5L1, ELAGSE5RL1, ELAGSE5RI, ELAGSE5RI4, ELAGSE5RI5

Students rotate through centers and animal displays (which are organized by class and species). 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.

ARCHERY (NATIONAL ARCHERY IN THE SCHOOLS PROGRAM)

ELAGSE5SL1, PE5.2, PE.5.3c, PE5.3d, PE5.5, PE5.6, ELAGSE5SL1

A certified instructor teaches the safety and technical basics of archery as specified by NASP. Students are then allowed to participate in shooting targets, scoring their attempts, and retrieving arrows. NASP promotes student education, physical education and participation in the lifelong sport of archery in an effort to inspire students to spend more time outdoors.



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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.

WHEEL OF NATURE

ELAGSE4SL1

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. (Questions are adapted to grade/ability level.)

FISHING

LS1.D, LS3.B, PE5.4, PE5.5

Following an orientation on how fish depend on their surroundings, adaptations, specialization of catfish receptors, 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 student or adult will read off measurement and instructor will help student place their fish's measurements on a simple bar chart. Students will also learn to tally the number of fish caught.