



Program Guide for Marion SWCD

Kindergarten

How did that get in my Lunchbox? The story of food.

Observation Hike

Plants & Trees for Me!

Furs & Skulls

1st-2nd Grades

Powerful Pollinators

Geology Rocks!

Soil Secrets

Birding Basics

3rd- 4th Grades

Furs and Skulls

Soak it Up!

Native or Noxious?

Benthic Macroinvertebrates

5th- 8th Grades

Soak it Up! (Coming soon!)

What is a Watershed?

Geology Rocks!

Salmon Watch

High School

Soak it Up! (Coming soon!)

Salmon Watch

How Did That Get in My Lunchbox? This is the story of food. Students will explore the question ‘Where does our food come from?’. Grocery store is not the correct answer! This read-aloud book will educate students on how food is produced and how it gets on our plates. Littlegreenthumbs.org provides extension activities for this book which makes the lessons fun and accessible.

Observation Hike: Student will use all their senses to encounter outdoor habitats. Hands-on observation will lead them to make new discoveries about their connection to nature.

Plants & Trees for Me!: Learn about the characteristics of plants and trees. Compare different types of plants, learn about their lifecycles and how they make their own food!

Furs & Skulls: Students will discover how to identify local wildlife species through furs and skulls. Touch the fur of an American beaver, touch North America's only marsupial, and learn about habitat and adaptations of Oregon wildlife through this fun hands-on program.

Powerful Pollinators: Why are insects important? This program utilizes books, movement, participation to teach students about the importance of insects and their role in the ecosystem. Students will discover what adaptations insects have to survive, they will learn how some insects communicate, and discover how insects connect the food web.

Geology Rocks! Students can really rock during this experiential class! Students will determine characteristics of metamorphic, sedimentary, and igneous rocks. They will understand the rock cycle and discover our bedrock and soil types based upon local geology.

Soil Secrets: Dig-in to the exciting world of soil! Students can discover the soil horizons, conduct the ribbon test, and uncover the living soil. Students will observe soil samples and use tools to identify living organisms and uncover the secrets in healthy soil.

Birding Basics: Learn the very basics of being a good bird watcher. Learn how to use binoculars, how to identify local bird species, and how birds fit into the ecosystem.

Soak it Up! This interactive program educates students about stormwater runoff. Students will be able to distinguish between pervious and impervious surfaces, calculate area, percent of cover on pervious and impervious surfaces, describe sustainable stormwater management solutions and redesign a model neighborhood to decrease stormwater runoff.

Native or Noxious? Plants are the foundation in which our ecosystems are built. Students will learn the terms: native, non-native, noxious, invasive. Students will identify 8 invasive species in the valley and discover 3 native species that benefit wildlife and habitat. An interactive game will help students understand how invasive plants can outcompete for resources.

Benthic Macroinvertebrates: Learn about aquatic habitats, insect lifecycles, food webs and water quality through hands-on exploration of macroinvertebrates (insects you can see without a microscope). Students will learn to use field guides, understand metamorphosis, link the importance of macros to salmon and other animals, describe water quality indicators and calculate a rating/score for stream health.

What is a Watershed? This is a classroom-based tour of a virtual watershed. Students will learn about stream ecology, water quality and their own connection to a watershed through testing, data sheets, and games.

Salmon Watch (Middle & High School): Four outdoor educational stations: riparian habitat, salmon lifecycle & biology, macroinvertebrates and water testing allow students to participate in the collection of data in a local watershed. Students will contribute to data collecting for chemical parameters for the North Santiam River, test for indicator species of macroinvertebrates, understand the role of riparian habitats, and understand the biology of the amazing salmon.