

Nearby Nature Field Trips and Oregon 3rd Grade Science and Social Science Standards



Below is a list of Nearby Nature field trips that address current science and social science standards for your grade level. The referenced standards, quoted from the Oregon Department of Education website, are listed after our program descriptions.

Nature Detectives Walks: On these morning nature walks, kids will use all of their nature-detecting senses and observation skills to explore Alton Baker Park. We'll look for signs that plants and animals are waking up for spring or getting ready for winter. We'll learn about whatever fascinating discoveries your students make and try to solve whatever mysteries inspire their curiosity.

- **Nature Detectives** walks give students an opportunity to learn about various plant and animal life cycles (3-LS1-1) as well as plant and animal adaptations (3-LS4-3).

Critter Quest Walks: On these morning nature walks, kids will spend half of their time using pond dipping nets to look for aquatic critters and half of their time on a wildlife-themed nature walk in Alton Baker Park. Life cycles, adaptations, and camouflage are some of the topics that will be addressed.

- **Critter Quest** walks support several Life Science standards. The macroinvertebrates students find in the pond lead to discussion of aquatic animal life cycles, while a walk through the park allows them to observe plants and animals in various stages of development (LS1.B). Our guides direct students' attention to the various adaptations of organisms encountered during this program (LS4.C).

River Quest Walks: On these morning water-themed walks, kids will visit the Willamette River to see the water cycle in action, learn about local watersheds, and check out riparian plants and animals. They will also talk about the relationship between people and rivers.

- **River Quest** walks support a variety of Earth Science standards. On a walk by the river and canal, guides point out evidence of past flooding and use illustrations to show how the course of the Willamette River has been altered over time by both human and natural processes (ESS3.B). Discussions of human use and alterations of the river also relate to Social Science standards 3.12 & 3.13. A Life Science standard is addressed as students observe diverse plant and animal life both in and around the water and discuss the adaptations that help organisms survive in this environment (LS4.C).

Kalapuya Quest Walks: On these morning Kalapuya-themed walks, kids will explore the park and learn how the Kalapuya people historically used native plants and animals for shelter, food, and clothing. These walks will also cover Kalapuya transportation, traditions, language, and stories.

- **Kalapuya Quest** walks allow students to learn about the people living in our area prior to European settlement and how they used local natural resources to support their communities (Social Science Standards 3.4, 3.12 & 3.13). The program also addresses an Earth Science standard as our guides discuss the Kalapuya use of controlled burns to manage the landscape and prevent disastrous forest fires (ESS3.B).

Referenced Oregon Department of Education 3rd Grade Science Standards:

L-LS1 From Molecules to Organisms: Structures and Processes

Disciplinary Core Ideas:

LS1.B: Growth and Development of Organisms

- Reproduction is essential to the continued existence of every kind of organism. Plants and animals have unique and diverse life cycles. (3-LS1-1)

3-LS4 Biological Evolution: Unity and Diversity

Disciplinary Core Ideas:

LS4.C: Adaptation

- For any particular environment, some kinds of organisms survive well, some survive less well, and some cannot survive at all. (3-LS4-3)

3-ESS3 Earth and Human Activity

Disciplinary Core Ideas:

ESS3.B: Natural Hazards

- A variety of natural hazards result from natural processes. Humans cannot eliminate natural hazards but can take steps to reduce their impacts.

Referenced Oregon Department of Education 3rd Grade Social Science Standards:

Historical Thinking

3.4. Describe local communities and regions past and present.

Geography

3.12. Identify and analyze Oregon's natural resources and describe how people in Oregon and other parts of the world use them.

3.13. Identify how people have adapted to and have changed the physical geography of the community