

Nearby Nature Field Trips and Oregon 5th 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 support Life Science standards as students observe the many organisms in the park, discuss their roles in food webs, and learn about the importance of photosynthesis and plants' role as the base of most food webs (LS2.A, LS1.C and PS3.D). Guides point out evidence of human impact on the environment through introduction of invasive species and alteration of the land, along with the many actions that people are taking to protect the environment (ESS3.C).

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 focus on animal life in the park. Food webs, including plants and various decomposers, are addressed. The importance of diverse species in maintaining a healthy ecosystem is also discussed (LS2.A).

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 allow students to observe the interaction of various riparian plants and animals and include the concepts of food webs and diversity in ecosystems (LS2.A). Social Science standards are addressed through discussion of human interaction with the river and its surroundings (5.7 & 5.10).

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 give students insight into the lives of the Kalapuya Inidans in our area prior to European settlement and provide information about how these people adapted to their physical environment (Social Science 5.1 & 5.10). Plants and animals used by the Kalapuya and how the Kalapuya fit into the local web of life will be discussed (LS2.A)

Referenced Oregon Department of Education 5th Grade Science Standards:

5-LS1 From Molecules to Organisms: Structures and Processes

Disciplinary Core Ideas:

LS1.C: Organization for Matter and Energy Flow in Organisms

- Plants acquire their material for growth chiefly from air and water. (5-LS1-1)

5-LS2 Ecosystems: Interactions, Energy, and Dynamics

Disciplinary Core Ideas:

LS2.A: Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems

- The food of almost any kind of animal can be traced back to plants. Organisms are related in food webs in which some animals eat plants for food and other animals eat the animals that eat plants. Some organisms, such as fungi and bacteria, break down dead organisms (both plants or plants parts and animals) and therefore operate as “decomposers.” Decomposition eventually restores (recycles) some materials back to the soil. Organisms can survive only in environments in which their particular needs are met. A healthy ecosystem is one in which multiple species of different types are each able to meet their needs in a relatively stable web of life. Newly introduced species can damage the balance of an ecosystem. (5-LS2-1)

5-ESS3 Earth and Human Activity

Disciplinary Core Ideas:

ESS3.C: Human Impacts on Earth Systems

- Human activities in agriculture, industry, and everyday life have had major effects on the land, vegetation, streams, ocean, air, and even outer space. But individuals and communities are doing things to help protect Earth’s resources and environments. (5-ESS3-1)

5-PS3 Energy

Disciplinary Core Ideas

PS3.D: Energy in Chemical Processes and Everyday Life

- The energy released [from] food was once energy from the sun that was captured by plants in the chemical process that forms plant matter (from air and water). (5-PS3-1)

Referenced Oregon Department of Education 5th Grade Social Science Standards:

Historical Knowledge

5.1. Identify and compare historical Native American groups and settlements that existed in North America prior to contact with European exploration in the late fifteenth and sixteenth centuries.

Geography

5.10. Describe how physical and political features influence events, movements, and adaptation to the environment.

Updated 1-15-15