

Life Cycles

Suggested Activities



COASTAL DISCOVERY MUSEUM

Experience The Lowcountry Up Close

The suggested activities below correlate with the education standards for each grade. We suggest that teachers look over the activities for all grades... another grade levels suggested activities might spark a great idea for an activity for your grade level too.

Kindergarten:

1. Create a plants vs animals Venn diagram comparing and contrasting the needs of both, and the general differences.
2. Create a worksheet with pictures of different plants and animals. Students can circle the plants green and the animals red.
3. Show students different plants and animals and ask them what habitat each one lives in.
4. Grow your own FLOWERING plant from seed in different conditions.

<https://www.generationgenius.com/activities/variation-of-traits-activity-for-kids/>

First Grade:

1. Grow your own plants from seeds.
2. Draw a flowering plant (including roots, stems, leaves, flowers, fruits, and seeds). Describe to a classmate, friend, teacher, or family member how each part helps the plant survive.
3. Take a closer look at the plants in different habitats. Compare how the different characteristics of the plants help them survive in each distinct habitat.

Second Grade:

1. Heads up game with animal cards. Describe animal traits.
<https://www.generationgenius.com/activities/introduction-to-traits-activity-for-kids/>
2. Body parts grab bag! Put pictures or names of different animal body parts in a bag (bird beak, insect wing, frog leg, deer ear) and have students pull a part out of the

bag and describe what the body part does and how it helps that animal survive. (Plenty of ways to adapt this activity like using picture of animal with circle body parts OR allowing students to pick their own animal body parts and describe how it helps the animal survive).

3. Use what you have in your home to create a life cycle. Examples: foods like noodles and beans, trash like straws and bottle caps, crafts/office supplies like paperclips and pipe cleaners, etc.

<https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/articles/teaching-content/butterfly-life-cycle-plate-craft/>

Third Grade:

1. Grow your own FLOWERING plant from seed in different conditions.

<https://www.generationgenius.com/activities/variation-of-traits-activity-for-kids/>

2. Environmental changes game. Tell students that they are a specific plant or animal (they should act like this living thing), then call out an environmental change. The student need to act out what they think that living thing would do. Examples: You are a flowering plant and a large tree grew to your right and created shade BUT there is plenty light to your left (the tree will start to grow toward the left). You're a frog...the pond you live in quickly becomes polluted (unfortunately the frog would probably die).

Fourth Grade:

1. Use what you have in your home to create a life cycle. Examples: foods like noodles and beans, trash like straws and bottle caps, crafts/office supplies like paperclips and pipe cleaners, etc.

<https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/articles/teaching-content/butterfly-life-cycle-plate-craft/>

2. Characteristics and life cycles. Students should research another type of animal, create their own life cycle presentation, and explain that type of animal's basic characteristics and its life cycle.

Fifth Grade:

1. Grow your own FLOWERING plant from seed in different conditions.

<https://www.generationgenius.com/activities/variation-of-traits-activity-for-kids/>

2. Biotic factors. Students should pick a plant or animal and describe the important interactions it has with abiotic factors during its life cycle.

Sixth Grade:

1. Grow your own FLOWERING plant from seed in different conditions.
<https://www.generationgenius.com/activities/variation-of-traits-activity-for-kids/>
2. I am a flowering plant! Students should create a presentation, writing assignment, or their own video. They should research a local plant and “become” that plant during their presentation. Describe how the plant defends itself, what habitat it lives in, any special adaptations it has to live in that habitat, how it gets what it needs, and how it reproduces and disperses its seeds.

Seventh Grade:

1. Soil and nutrients go through cycles too. Soil activity ideas.
<https://www.soils4teachers.org/lessons-and-activities>
2. Connections! Throughout the life of these living things they have many interactions with biotic and abiotic factors. Pick one of the animal life cycles and make a connection between other living and nonliving things (including competition, mutualism, commensalism, parasitism, and predator-prey relationships).

Other ideas:

<https://scetv.pbslearningmedia.org/subjects/science/life-science/>

https://scetv.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/tdc02.sci.life.cyc.lp_lifecycle/life-cycles-of-frogs-dragonflies-and-butterflies/

<https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/blog-posts/genia-connell/10-ready-go-resources-teaching-life-cycles/>

<https://www.weareteachers.com/plant-life-cycle-activities/>