



Broward County Public Schools Videoconference

Reading Rascals

Lesson: Exploring Your Neighborhood

Instructor: Dr. Evelyn Nelson-Weaver
BECON Distance Learning Teacher

Grade Level: First Grade

Sunshine State Standard: SC.H.1.1

Benchmark: SC.H.1.1.1, SC.H.1.1.4, and SC.H.1.1.5

Objective(s):

1. Students will recognize that careful observation is necessary to document research findings.
2. Students will identify at least one way to record and communicate data about the natural world.
3. Students will discuss at least one tool used to obtain information about his or her surroundings.

SCIENCE SKILL: Observe.

INTRODUCTION: Today we are going to look at our community. That's right...South Florida neighborhoods. Raise your hand if you live in tall apartment or condo building? How many of you live in a house with grass surrounding it? How many live in the middle of the city? Who lives near a lake or the Everglades? Let's look a bit closer at the different places and people that make up a neighborhood.

MEDIA CONNECTION: Neighborhoods: A Review from *All About Neighborhoods*. United Learning (1997). Retrieved February 4, 2008, from unitedstreaming: <http://streaming.discoveryeducation.com/>

ACTIVITY: Questions for students:

- What different places do you have in your neighborhood? *School, church, houses, apartments, stores, etc.*

All of your different neighborhoods are part of a big community. Plants and animals also have different types of habitats (places where they live). Today we are going to look at one of the habitats or neighborhoods in Florida...the mangrove wilderness.

MEDIA CONNECTION: Plants in the Water from *Debbie Greenthumb: Plants Can Be Found Everywhere*. United Learning (2000). Retrieved February 4, 2008, from unitedstreaming: <http://streaming.discoveryeducation.com/>

ACTIVITY: Questions for students:

- Can mangrove trees live in salt water? *Yes*
- How are lily pads good for small animals? *They can sit on them in the water*

LITERATURE CONNECTION:

Book Title: Mangrove Wilderness: Nature's Nursery

Text and Photography: Bianca Lavies

Publisher: Dutton Children's Books, New York, NY (1994)

Summary: This book describes the mangrove swamp ecology and the animals that live there. The text and photographs displayed present the mangrove areas in Florida.

ACTIVITY:

- The videoconference teacher will read Mangrove Wilderness: Nature's Nursery
 - Info. On book's author
 - Pgs. 1-3, 7, 12, 13, 21-25, 27
- Questions for students:
 1. How did the author prove her ideas about the mangrove wilderness? *She carefully observed the wilderness and took pictures to document or prove her findings.*
 2. Why are a red mangrove tree's roots called prop roots? *Because they prop or hold up the tree.*
 3. How many seeds does a red mangrove tree produce each year? *300*
 4. Who eats the mangrove leaves? *Crabs, shrimp, worms*
 - Who eats the crabs, shrimp, and worms? *Small fish*
 - Who eats the small fish? *Big fish This is what we call a food chain.*
 5. Name three animals that hunt for food in the mangrove wilderness. *Alligator, Rat Snake, Raccoon*
 6. Why do birds come to the mangrove wilderness? *Protection, food, nesting, and roosting*

MATERIALS NEEDED: None

EXTENSION: Students will draw pictures of mangrove trees and write at least one sentence describing life in a mangrove wilderness.

Related Website:

Mangrove Swamps

http://inchinapinch.com/hab_pgs/marine/mangrove/mangrove.htm