

# Wildlife Diversity Grant Report

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Learning about animal adaptations and habitat is an important standard that is taught in third grade. Through the use of the hands-on teaching items purchased through this grant, students learned about native wildlife species and their habitats. Students were actively engaged in the learning process as they explored, questioned, investigated, and discovered the animal world. Each item purchased through this grant was made into a permanent teaching kit to be used for many years to come. This project is sustainable over many years as the resources are all reusable.

This project helped students become more aware of habitats and they learned about adequate ways to protect them. The items purchased were used to enhance the current science curriculum and allowed students to explore the world of nature. Several State Science Standards were met through the use of the grant materials:

3.L.3.3. Students were able to describe ways humans impact air, water, and habitat quality.

3.L.2.1. Students were able to explain how animals instinctively meet basic needs in their environment.

3.L.3.1. Students were able to describe how species depend on one another and on the environment for survival.

3.L.3.2. Students were able to explain how environments support a diversity of plants and animals.

3.L.1.1. Students were able to identify the basic structures, functions, and needs of plants in relation to their environment.

3.L.1.2. Students were able to identify characteristic features of animals and their related functions in relation to their environment.

3.L.1.3. Students were able to describe life cycles, including growth and metamorphosis, of familiar organisms.

Other subject areas such as reading, writing, math, art, and language arts were also incorporated into science lessons.

Here are a few examples of how the resources positively impacted students:

Using the animal tooth kit, students were able to identify various animal teeth and determine if they were carnivores, herbivores, or omnivores. Students looked at various animal x-rays and skeleton replicas and compared and contrasted their bones to human bones. One of the favorite activities for third graders was handling the skull replicas. Students looked at mammal, bird, amphibian, and reptile skulls and determined what they ate based on their teeth and jaw structure. All the students enjoyed the animal pelts, and they were used many times throughout the year. Each time we studied an animal kingdom in science, the skulls, skeletons, pelts, and tracks that related to that topic were used. For example, during our mammal study students were able to complete hands-on activities with beaver, fox, raccoon, rabbit, opossum, skunk, badger, mink, and muskrat pelts. They also compared and contrasted bobcat, deer, jack rabbit, opossum, badger, and woodchuck skulls. Third graders also made plaster of Paris tracks for several mammals. Students read books about each group of animals and watched the educational DVD's that related. The chapter books that were ordered were made into leveled reading group series. Groups of 5-7 students were able to complete book studies as they read the books together and discussed.

Students were involved in learning the various groups of animals: mammals, reptiles, amphibians, birds, and fish. As each group was taught, students were able to have hands-on experiences with the materials that related. As a result of

this unit of study, students gained a better understanding of wildlife management, habitats, and animal adaptations. Students shared their information and resources with other grade levels in the building. Parents were invited into the school to view the resources and have students present as a culminating activity.

Here are some classroom photos of students participating in hands-on experiments:

### Bird Beak Adaptations



# Butterfly Garden



# Incubating Eggs



# Critter Kit of Pelts and Skulls





# Fish Dissection



# Fur Sample Kit with Lessons



# Owl Pellets



# Trout Release Day



# Turkey Time



The following are classroom YouTube videos that show students participating in hands-on science activities:

Pheasant Farm (2:34)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VtIxdgpuZdg>

Butterfly Garden (1:16)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nE7IFIt\\_S3s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nE7IFIt_S3s)

Hatching Chicks (3:35)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uRdxFUKarAQ>

Trout Release (8:29)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zLrGnBtd0EQ>

Farm Field Trip (2:39)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NZd2IEjhjU>

Ecosystems (1:43)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ojn1x4xBy4s>

Turkey Time (1:07)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RvTCytuwsDE>

Buffalo Box (1:03)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6\\_eLNRNWiDs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6_eLNRNWiDs)

Bird Beak Adaptations (2:42)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fLjG7QY4YeM>

Owl Pellets (1:44)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2HZaPstDYrw>

Worm Farm (1:12)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=viTDpRBW3UQ>

Thank you for your generous contribution! Students for many years will benefit from the grant items.

