

Trout Lake Nature Center

Grade 2: Interdependence

Teachers can integrate their programs with other courses of study such as reading, language arts, math and other science concepts. A visit to TLNC at any time of year will be worthwhile for you and your students to engage their interests and extend the courses of study.

Nature of Science can be implemented all year. Teachers can use TLNC's Grade 2: Interdependence program to help understand the nature of science: observe, investigate, compare and contrast, measure and record data

- **Observe:** Students will observe the different habitats at TLNC.
- **Investigate:** Students will investigate the habitats finding relationships between living and non-living things.
- **Contrast and Compare:** Students will compare and contrast the needs of different animals within each habitat at TLNC.
- **Record:** Students will record information about each habitat in relationship to the animals and plants found within that habitat.

Pre-Visit Activities: Students should become familiar with the concept of interdependence before visiting TLNC.

To better prepare your students for their TLNC field experience, the following activities are suggested:

Activity 1 – As a class, students can conduct a school yard survey to discover what types of plants and animals live within their schoolyard habitat. This will prepare students to make better observations during their TLNC visit. Some questions that could be used are: How many varieties of animals and plants were found? What did the animals depend on? Do the plants depend on the animals? Discuss.

Activity 2 – Read any or all the following.

1. *Goodnight Owl* by Pat Hutchins
2. *Cactus Hotel* by Brenda Guiberson
3. *In a Tree* by David Swartz
4. *Our Tree* by Herbert Wong and Matthew Vessel.

This can be a whole class activity or group activity. The class can read one of the books and discuss how the animals are connected to the tree. Or the class can be divided into smaller groups and each group assigned one of the books to read. Each group would make a book report telling how the tree was used by the animals and how the tree benefits from the animals.

Post Visit Activity Suggestions

Activity 1 – Have students write a sentence about four of the animals that depended on the Great Oak Tree (based on *The Great Kapok Tree*) from TLNC's Tree Web" activity. Students should show or explain how did that animal depend on the tree? The animals in the story were: cardinal, deer, raccoon, frog, bat, turtle, squirrel, bee or butterfly.

Activity 2 – Read *The Great Kapok Tree* by Lynne Cherry and compare it to the oak tree in our story. How were the stories similar? How were they different? Choose one of the animals in either story and write a story of what you think would happen if the tree had been cut down.

Activity 3 – Have students choose another Florida animal (one that was not used in the story) and research what type of habitat it lives in and what it depends on for food or shelter.

Activity 4: Write a thank you note to TLNC’s sponsors for your field trip to TLNC and include one thing you learned on the field trip.

1. City of Eustis
2. Lake County Board of County Commissioners
3. Lake County Water Authority
4. Lake County School Board