

Trout Lake Nature Center

Grade 4: Interdependence and Heredity

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 4: Interdependence and Heredity program to help understand the nature of science: observe, measure and record data, ask questions, and investigate in teams.

Observing: Students will observe human and animal impacts on our environment.

Investigate: Students will investigate the characteristics of inherited characteristics of the Florida Panther and how plants and animals are dependent on each other.

Contrast and Compare: Students will compare and contrast sources of pollutants with solutions.

Record: Students will record data about individual inherited characters of the Florida Panther.

Pre-Visit Activities: Students should become familiar with the concepts of interdependence, heredity and pollution impacts and sources before visiting TLNC.

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

Activity 1 –Students discuss what is meant by endangered species and list reasons why a species could become or is endangered.

Activity 2 – Students can research what are pollution problems in Florida or their home town and what are some of the solutions proposed or implemented.

Post Visit Activity Suggestions

Activity 1 – As a class, students can make a list of three types of pollutants and think of or research at least one possible solution for each.

Activity 2 – Have students choose a Florida animal, note its characteristics and how the characteristics help them survive.

Activity 3 – Have students choose a Florida mammal from *Florida's Fabulous, Mammals* by Dr. Jerry Lee Gingerich and make connections between that animal and other animals or plants found in the same habitat.

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