

## 5th Grade

**Poster Contest** – A yearly nationwide poster contest with a natural resource theme. Presentations offered in early fall. Students that participate have the chance to win small prizes and recognition at an awards dinner. Deadline for submissions is the end of October.



**Food Web** – Get tangled! This activity explores the flow of energy through an ecosystem and will result in the whole class being connected in a unique yarn web. Additional population and resource games included as time permits.



**Pollinators!**- A fun look at the importance of pollinators and the complex relationship they have with flowers.

## 6th Grade

**Geology 101** – A great introduction to the rock cycle. Includes an exciting and memorable activity turning crayons into rocks. Many different rock samples to explore and great insight into the beginning study of geology.

**Ohio Minerals** – Students will explore the ODNR Division of Geology's Ohio Mineral Kits and learn about the products and resources produced in and from Ohio minerals.

**Advanced Soils** – Review soil composition and soil layers while also looking into soil structure. Presentation will include a simple soil test and discussion of nutrients.



## 7th Grade

**Groundwater** – Groundwater is always such a mystery or at best an abstract concept, but with the help of our groundwater model students will have the opportunity to learn about aquifers, contaminants, and more.

**Stormwater** – Explore the flow of stormwater and the impact that the land and land use can have on water quality by spending some time with our enviroscape model. Also includes stormwater management strategies.

**Macroinvertebrates** – Learn about evaluating a stream's water quality through the life present in the stream. Presentation involves life cycles of several macroinvertebrates and a mock stream sampling and evaluation. Special focus on the impact of pollution on the stream ecosystem.



## 8th Grade

**Glaciers and Landform Changes** – Explore the local history of the Scioto, Ohio, and ancestral Teays Rivers. Learn about the long term impact and damage a glacier can have on the land. Can include a review of stream dynamics and erosion with the stream table unit.

# 2016—2017

## Conservation Education Classroom Lessons

### Grades K-8



Kate Sowards, Conservation Education Coordinator

[katesowards@sciotoswcd.org](mailto:katesowards@sciotoswcd.org)

740-259-9231 EXT 109

Scioto Soil and Water Conservation District is proud to offer the following classroom lessons. These in class programs are available free to all Scioto County Schools. Advance scheduling is recommended.

In addition to the lessons listed above field trips, service learning projects, Earth Day activities, and school gardens are among the many education services offered. Discount spring tree seedlings available for order in February. See the Scioto SWCD website for more information.

[www.sciotoswcd.org](http://www.sciotoswcd.org)



### Kindergarten

**Rain Gauges** – Students will craft their own rain gauges for measuring rainfall and while crafting will learn about the importance of rain to farming.

**Signs of Wildlife** – Explore the world of animal tracks with plaster molds in a sandbox and take a walk to look for signs of wildlife. Animals are often shy and by looking for the signs we leave behind we can see them long after they are gone. Includes a quick game and story called ‘Wild or Not’ that will help students compare the life of domestic animals like dogs to that of wild animals like squirrels

### 1st Grade

**Habitat and Resource Games** – A fun couple of fun ‘tag’ games to explore limited resource impact on animals and their interaction with non-living components of their environment. Great for outdoor time but adaptable for the classroom.

**Bird feeders** – Presentation includes discussing bird feed choices and feed types and installing one outside the classroom for observation. Can include student activity to craft their own bird treat to take home.

### 2nd Grade

**Incredible Journey** – A game that explores the water cycle and allows the student to imagine the experience of the cycle from the perspective of a rain drop. Includes storytelling about their journey.

**Worm Composting** – Craft a classroom worm composting bin to begin to observe the decomposers in action!

**Enviroscape** – Explore how humans can impact the ecosystem by evaluating the movement of water over the surface of the land and witnessing the results of human land use and pollution.



### 3rd Grade

**Intro to Soils** – Students will explore the world of soil and even work as a class to make soil. Presentation includes several soil samples to illustrate air, mineral, and water components of soil. A felt depiction of the soil layers and soil life is also included in the lesson.

**Rock Cookies** – By investigating the characteristics of cookies and rock samples the students will learn how to view rocks and examine texture and composition.

**Bluebird House Project** – Participating 3rd Grade teachers will receive a bluebird nest box to install and monitor through the spring. In class presentation will include the blue bird life cycle, the importance of nest boxes, and how to care for and monitor bluebird nest boxes.

**Furs** – This lesson delves into our mammal fur collection and explores how traits of different animal furs are perfect for their lifestyle and environment.

**Skulls** – Learn how to be a skull detective and evaluate physical features in the skull and how they fit the needs in life of the animal. Special emphasis on predator and prey features.



### 4th Grade

**Landforms** – Learn about the water available on the planet by playing games and discussion. Also explore some of the impacts water can have on the land by making a sinkhole model in class.

**Topographic Maps** – Class will make a 3D topographic map out of clay and explore the component of height on maps. Includes exploring local topographic maps and identifying watersheds as a practical application.

**Weathering** – The earth is impacted by many weathering variables. The class will explore several weathering experiments and make observations.

**Erosion** – Delve in the wet sand of the streamtable model and learn about stream erosion, stream dynamics, and sedimentation. This is a wonderful lesson to see erosion in action.

**Ohio Wildlife History** – A presentation that covers the history of wildlife in Ohio beginning with the lush land the new settlers and trappers found upon arrival through the dark days of the Great Hinkley Hunt and Iron Furnaces to the current recovery of many wildlife populations.



**\*Lessons are sorted by grade level as they correlate to the relevant science standards. Grade level designation is a suggestion and each can be adapted or utilized in other grade levels.**