



# Wildlife at Whitfield: Pre-lesson, lesson, and post lesson

*Understanding the local environment and how we can help protect it in the future.*

Fourth Grade Next Generation Science Standards Addressed:

Students who demonstrate understanding can:

**4-ESS3-2. Generate and compare multiple solutions to reduce the impacts of natural Earth processes on humans.**

Students who demonstrate understanding can:

**4-ESS3-1. Obtain and combine information to describe that energy and fuels are derived from natural resources and their uses affect the environment.**

**Overview:** *This lesson is designed to get students to understand the local ecosystem, how we impact this ecosystem, and ways to address these impacts and solutions for the future of our plant.*

**Lesson Objectives:**

**Know:** Students will know key vocabulary: Natural Resources, Habitat, Vegetation, Invasive Species, Conservation, Human Impacts, and Ecosystem. Students will know how these key words relate to the existing environment and how they could be impacted in the future.

**Understand:** The impacts of human activities on the local environment, that everything in the ecosystem is interconnected and ways to think about present and future impacts to it.

**Be able to do:** communicate their knowledge of these impacts to others through writing, drawing, talking and doing.

**Guiding Questions:** How are plant and animal habitats changed because of us? What can we do to help restore the wildlife in this area and the areas we live?

**Duration:**

Pre-lesson: 1 hour

Whitfield Visit: 3 hours (including lunch)

Post-lesson: varies

**Notes and materials:**

Pre-lesson: loose paper, pencil, PowerPoint





Whitfield Visit: Pencil, backpacks



What we provide: clipboards, lesson, and binoculars



Post-lesson: varies



**Assessment:**



Finished lesson after Whitfield visit, post lesson presentations



**Key Vocabulary:**



Global Warming, Human Impacts (pollution, fossil fuels, carbon foot printing, carbon dioxide), Invasive Species, Natural vs. Man Made Resources, Conservation, Habitats, Ecosystem, Environment



**Why the importance of visiting Whitfield?** This lesson is designed such that it is student centered, teacher facilitated and focuses on these key aspects of learning: experiential learning and environmental education, critical thinking, scientific method and STEM concepts.



*When we try to pick out anything in nature, we find it hitched to everything else in the universe.*  
–John Muir





**Procedure:**



**Pre lesson:** (to do in the classroom one week prior to visit)



Begin PowerPoint together with students. Each slide will have group and individual questions to answer. Slide 1: Have students get prepared by getting loose-leaf paper or notebook and a pencil. All answers and thoughts will be written/typed. Each slide will have



Slide 2: Students will learn about reasons to care for the environment by generating a list up on the board



Slide 3: Students will look over vocabulary words. Split students into groups to answer questions on slide. Write group answers and/or corrections needed on the board



Slide 4: Students will watch a five minute video on natural resources and write things they learn about it



Slide 5: Students will write down all the things we worry about on this page. Have students look at words on the right and think about how they are connected to the items we worry about.



Slide 6: Students will watch a video on conservation and write down what it means



Slide 7: Students will write down question and a possible answer



Slide 8: Students will write down all the words in red. How are they related?



Slide 9: Students will get a glimpse of what Whitfield visit will be like in a 5 minute video



Slide 10: Students will write down what to wear/what to bring



**Whitfield Visit Lesson:**



Students will be greeted on bus upon arrival. We will gather in the parking lot and go over safety and our day. I will hand out nature journaling packets, clipboards and binoculars.



We will walk approximately 1.2 miles around the pond, wetlands, meadows and shrub areas. There are four main stops where we will fill out information along the way. This is an all-inclusive project so parents and teachers will be a part of this lesson, too!



**Post Lesson: Homework/Post Activities**



I want you to compile a class list of different ways you are going to communicate the importance of protecting the land around you to others and email me your list and future projects you come up with. All future projects that are related to protecting and caring for the environment that you do in the future, please send me all your work! The winning class/es will present their list of ways they are going to communicate the importance of protecting the environment to our board of supervisors and friends of Whitfield!

