



Wonderful Wild Words

Introduction

Nature's Patchwork Quilt by Mary Miche introduces children to science vocabulary terms, such as interdependence and adaptation. In this activity, students match the terms to the correct definitions.

Materials Needed

- ◆ The book, *Nature's Patchwork Quilt*
- ◆ Copies of the Definitions handout (printed on card stock and cut apart to make a set), 1 set per group
- ◆ 1 copy of the Vocabulary Terms handout (printed on card stock and cut apart to make a set)

Key Concepts

- Different plants and animals inhabit different kinds of environments and have external features that help them thrive in different kinds of places.
- Living organisms depend on one another and on their environment for survival.
- Human behavior can either help or hurt a habitat.

Procedure

1. Read *Nature's Patchwork Quilt* to the class.
2. Divide students into groups and give each group a set of Definitions. Have them spread out the definitions so that they easily read them. Introduce the "Wonderful Wild Words" game by explaining that the object of the game is to choose the definition that correctly matches the vocabulary term you read. Groups earn one point for each correct definition they choose.
3. Draw one of the cards from your set of Vocabulary Terms, and read it aloud. Tape it to the board. Give students a predetermined amount of time to find the definition from their set of cards.
4. When time is up, ask for a volunteer to read the correct definition. Record points for groups who make the correct matches. Provide additional explanations or examples to make sure that children understand the term.

Nature Connections

- ◆ Walk around your school grounds to find concrete examples of the terms, such as camouflage, adaptation, or survival mechanism. Back in the classroom, identify the vocabulary terms that you couldn't find around the school, such as zooplankton or phytoplankton.

Additional Resources

Other children's picture books about interconnectedness:

- ***Around One Log* by Anthony D. Fredericks**
- ***Saguaro Moon* by Kristin Joy Pratt-Serafini**
- ***Web at Dragonfly Pond* by Brian "Fox" Ellis**
- ***Pass the Energy, Please!* by Barbara Shaw McKinney**

habitat	interdependence	niche
phytoplankton	zooplankton	marine food chain
adaptations	microscope	food chain
survival mechanisms	temperate rainforest	tropical rainforest
biodiversity	generations	ancestors
extinct	environmentalists	preserving
hibernate	deforestation	domestication
camouflage	food web	rainforest

plants and animals living together	plants and animals depending on one another	a special role in a habitat
tiny plants that live on the surface of the ocean	tiny animals in the ocean who eat phytoplankton	a chain that links who eats who in the ocean
changes that help animals survive	a tool to see tiny objects	a chain that link who eats who
ways animals adjust to survive	a cold rain forest	a hot rain forest
lots of different kinds of living things	parents and their children, and their children, and their children	the old ones who have gone before
when all of a species are dead	people who help preserve nature	helping plants and animals survive
go to sleep for the winter	when a forest is cut down	when plants and animals are changed by people
change colors in order to hide	a complex network of who eats who	a place where there is lots of rain