



Understanding
our
Environment

Kindergarten SuperUnit

Life Cycles



Sharing the Resources of our Planet

This SuperUnit is a structured inquiry into helping the learner understand our natural environment. Learners will share the resources of our planet. Learners will be empowered to improve the environmental sustainability of humans. Learners will develop their ability to do sustainability thinking (the process of considering how our daily choices affect our environment).

Enduring Understanding: All Living Things



Highlights of Learning Experiences

SuperUnit Launch: January 22nd, 2018

Field Trip(s): SSIS Campus Ecological Tour and Plant nursery

Guest Speaker(s): Kattina Fox - ecosystems / SSIS gardeners

Project: Students will document the life cycle of a plant, insect or animal.

Core Values: Balance in Life (ecosystems), Academic Excellence (self-management), Sense of Self (sense of community, leadership), Respect for All (respect for life), Dedicated Service (social and environmental responsibility)

SuperUnit Celebration: March 23, 2018



Focus on Learning by Subject

Physical Development and Motor Skills:

- The child will use senses (sight, touch, hearing, smell, and taste) to explore the environment and process information.

Social and Emotional Development:

- The child will demonstrate an awareness and need to protect his/her environment.

Approaches to Play and Learning:

- The child will sustain attention to a specific activity and demonstrate persistence.
- The child will demonstrate interest and curiosity.

Communication, Language and Literacy:

- The child will acquire meaning from a variety of materials read to him/her.
- The child will use writing for a variety of purposes.

Cognitive Development and General Knowledge:

- The child will explore and communicate about weight, length, height and time.
- The child will manipulate, compare, describe relationships, and solve problems using number and quantity.
- The child will demonstrate knowledge related to living things and their environment.

Things We Go Through Life Cycles We Can Observe



Questions to Ask your Child

- What is a life cycle?
- How do plants and animals change over their lifetime?
- How can we use our senses to gather and record information?
- Why do plants and animals reproduce?



Home Learning

- Go for a walk near a river or park and talk about what grows and how it survives.
- Check out National Geographic for Kids online.
- Discuss previous trips, vacations or visits where you have seen different animals, what they were and where they lived.
- Take photos, read books or draw pictures of plants, animals or insects that you have observed with your child.



Suggested Home Extensions

- Have your child make a mobile of the different stages of a life cycle for a particular plant or animal.
- Have your child use the five senses vocabulary (see, hear, taste, smell, touch) to explore nature around them.
- Plant a seed at home with your child and observe and record the changes you see in it.



Key Vocabulary

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| • life cycle | • change |
| • survive | • observation / note-taking |
| • five senses (see, hear, taste, smell, touch) | • plant / animal / insect |
| • reproduce | • First, next, then, last |



SuperUnit Launch: Monday, January 22, 2018

Field Trips:
SSIS Ecological Campus Tour
Plant nursery

Guest Speaker:
SSIS Gardeners
Kattina Fox

SuperUnit Celebration: March 23, 2018
(as part of Learning Journeys)



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