Unit 4: Nature: Forces and Fauna

Content Area: **Language Arts Literacy**
Course(s):
Time Period: **January**
Length: **6 weeks**
Status: **Published**

Enduring Understandings

Appreciating nature in all its splendor requires examination of what is seen around us as well as investigations into what we cannot see but nonetheless know is there.

Essential Questions

- How can I develop a deeper appreciation of the natural world?
- How do nature's forces affect me?
- How does the plant world impact my life?

Content

1. Key vocabulary terms related to the theme

2. How to write an editorial (argumentative piece) for a newspaper

3. How to use voice and actions to dramatize a play

- Discussions of readings and listening exercises
- Audio recordings
- Pronunciation exercises

4. How to interpret and create an original Haiku about nature

5. How to write a comparative piece comparing two works on the same topic by different authors

- Comparative piece
- Argumentative piece
- Haiku poetry
- Compound words
- Simple, compound, and complex sentences
- Phrases and clauses
- Adjectives
- Comparative adjectives
- Regular comparatives with *–er*, *–est*
- Irregular comparatives
- Phrasal verbs
- Past, past perfect, and past progressive tenses
- Positive and negative sentences

- Compound subjects

6. Phonics: consonants *c* and *g*; short *i, o, u*; final and medial *–tion*; dipthongs *ow, ou, oi, oy, aw, au*

- Word Study
- Foundational Skills: recognizing cursive writing; spelling short *i, o,* and *u*; suffixes *–er* and *–est*, spelling *patterns in, id, on, ot, un, ud,* as well as patterns using final and medial *tion;* diphthongs *ow, ou, oi, oy; aw, au*

Vocabulary skills: key vocabulary terms, adjectives, compound words, question words

Skills

- Interpret a poem
- Cite several pieces of textual evidence to support what the text explicitly says as well as what it infers
- Determine theme/central idea and analyze its development
- Determine meaning of words as used in a text
- Analyze and compare the structure authors use to organize texts
- Determine how an author develops point of view and analyze how he/she distinguishes that position from that of others
- Analyze different points of view of different characters
- When writing arguments, introduce and support claims with clear reasons, acknowledging alternate claims
- When writing arguments, use logical reasoning and accurate, credible sources; also create cohesion claims and evidence using a formal style; and, include a conclusion
- Revise and edit, focusing on addressing purpose and audience
- Properly cite sources
- Gather relevant information from multiple credible sources
- Form *Wh*- questions
- Use comparatives and superlatives
- Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar especially phrases, clauses, verbs
- Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English to spell correctly

Learning Activities

“Hamburger” Strategy

Use the "Hamburger" strategy to model narrative writing in a whole group setting. **http://www.classtools.net/education-games-php/burger**

a) Top bun – main idea

b) Lettuce – first event

c) Cheese – second event

d) Meat – third event

e) Bottom bun – closing/conclusion

After viewing each segment, record students’ retelling of main idea, followed by first, next, last events, and conclusion. Reread

paragraph each time new statements are added. Display final product as anchor chart for future reference.

Resources

http://www.superteacherworksheets.com/graphic-organizers/hamburger-writing-lines.pdf

Standards

LA.RL.8.1	Cite the textual evidence and make relevant connections that most strongly supports an analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.
LA.RL.8.2	Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text, including its relationship to the characters, setting, and plot; provide an objective summary of the text.
LA.RL.8.4	Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone, including analogies or allusions to other texts.
LA.RL.8.5	Compare and contrast the structure of two or more texts and analyze how the differing structure of each text contributes to its meaning and style.
LA.RI.8.1	Cite the textual evidence and make relevant connections that most strongly supports an analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.
LA.RI.8.2	Determine a central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text, including its relationship to supporting ideas; provide an objective summary of the text.
LA.RI.8.5	Analyze the structure an author uses to organize a specific paragraph in a text, including the role of particular sentences, to develop and to refine a key concept.
LA.RI.8.6	Determine an author's point of view or purpose in a text and analyze how the author acknowledges and responds to conflicting evidence or viewpoints.
LA.W.8.1	Write arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence.
LA.W.8.1.A	Introduce claim(s), acknowledge and distinguish the claim(s) from alternate or opposing claims, and organize the reasons and evidence logically.
LA.W.8.1.B	Support claim(s) with logical reasoning and relevant evidence, using accurate, credible sources and demonstrating an understanding of the topic or text.
LA.W.8.1.C	Use words, phrases, and clauses to create cohesion and clarify the relationships among claim(s), counterclaims, reasons, and evidence.
LA.W.8.1.D	Establish and maintain a formal style.
LA.W.8.1.E	Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the argument presented.
LA.W.8.5	With some guidance and support from peers and adults, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach, focusing on how well purpose and audience have been addressed.
LA.W.8.6	Use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing and present the relationships between information and ideas efficiently as well as to interact and collaborate with others.

LA.W.8.8	Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, using search terms effectively; assess the credibility and accuracy of each source; and quote or paraphrase the data and conclusions of others while avoiding plagiarism and following a standard format for citation.
LA.SL.8.1	Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade 8 topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.
LA.SL.8.1.C	Pose questions that connect the ideas of several speakers and respond to others' questions and comments with relevant evidence, observations, and ideas.
LA.8.L.8.3	Use knowledge of language and its conventions when writing, speaking, reading, or listening. Use verbs in the active and passive voice and in the conditional and subjunctive mood to achieve particular effects (e.g., emphasizing the actor or the action; expressing uncertainty or describing a state contrary to fact).