

Lesson Title : Nature Trail Walk

Essential Question: What type of wildlife sign can you find while on a nature walk?



Instructional Time needed for Lesson: 25-30 min

Lesson Summary:

Students will learn how to identify different wildlife sign while on a trail walk. They will also learn what different animals use in their environment for food, shelter, space, and water. We will also discuss what steps are taken to manage habitat for elk, and the other animals that this management benefits.

Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of class instruction students will be able to:

- Objective 1: Identify several types of ecosystems.
- Objective 2: Recognize different wildlife sign.
- Objective 3: Discuss how elk habitat is maintained and managed.
- Objective 4: Describe the concept of thermal covering with hemlock stands.

Extension:

1. Have students pick an animal or bird that they talked about or saw on the trail walk. Encourage them to draw the “perfect” habitat for the animal and describe how they would manage it.
2. Have students pick an extinct animal and develop a management plan for it. Once they have the plan, have them identify the problems with the plan, and why those problems may be difficult to overcome. Discuss whether or not this had anything to do with why they went extinct.

Key Terms:

- Vernal pool
- Stewardship
- Thermal Covering
- Ecosystem
- Habitat Management
- Scat
- Scrape
- Grazer

To conserve and enhance Pennsylvania's elk country for future generations.



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