

## **PEEC Into the Classroom: Outside & In-Person Curriculum (1hour per class)**

### **“Water Quality Time”**

Have a body of water on school property? Let’s explore it! Students will learn the importance of water quality and how to biotic surveys can show the health of the ecosystem.

- Introduction to Water Quality & Macroinvertebrates (15 minutes)
- Water Exploration with Naturalist (30 minutes)
- Results Debrief & Wrap-Up (15 minutes)

### **“What’s in Your Watershed”**

Explore where water goes at your school through our EnviroScape demonstration and supporting exploration of storm water management on-site.

- Introduction to Watersheds & EnviroScape Demonstration (30minutes)
- Storm Water Investigation (20 minutes)
- Debrief & Wrap-Up (10 minutes)

### **“Native Plant Life”**

Students will explore plant life around their school, from common parking lot weeds to field wildflowers, the goal of this student is to improve observation skills, learn common plant parts and function and gain appreciation for commonly overlooked species.

- Introduction to Plant Anatomy (15 minutes)
- Field Identification (30 minutes)
- Results Debrief & Wrap-Up (15 minutes)

### **“Seasonal Survival”**

Explore animal strategies of survival for winter. Students will discuss wildlife ecology accompanied by animal artifacts followed by using critical thinking skills to design and build a functional nest site for their gelatin “critters.” Will your students survive the challenge?

- Introduction to Animal Survival Strategies (25 minutes)
- Gelatin “Critic” Challenge (20 minutes)
- Results Debrief & Wrap-Up (15 minutes)

### **“Digging Geology”**

There’s more to rocks than meets the eye. Learn the importance of minerals in our lives and how to geologists classify them through hands-on, empirical methods.

- Introduction to Rocks vs. Minerals and the Rock Cycle (20 minutes)
- Mineral Identification (30 minutes)
- Results Debrief & Wrap-up (10 minutes)



## “Herpetology”

Meet the animal ambassadors of PEEC in this creature-focused presentation on cold-blooded amphibians and reptiles. Discuss why people have an aversion to these “crawling” critters and learn their importance in our environment.

- Intro to Herpetofauna (5 minutes)
- Amphibian and Reptile Identification (45 minutes)
- Wrap-Up Discussion of Threats and Stigma (10 minutes)

## “Trees & Leaves”

Do you know the trees in your backyard? We will review the parts of a tree and then discuss the various adaptations trees have in temperate forests, including how they survive winter. Then we will practice our identification skills outside!

- Introduction to Parts of a Tree and Adaptations ( 25 minutes)
- Common Tree Identification (25 minutes)
- Wrap-Up Identification Show & Tell (10 minutes)

## “Bugs & Beyond”

What really is a “bug” and why do they bother us? We’ll cover insect anatomy, their lifecycles and how to identify other “buggy” creatures as well. Then we will explore common areas outside for these important arthropods.

- Introduction to Entomology, Insects and Lifecycle (10 minutes)
- Human and “Bugs” Discussion on pests, pollinators and decomposers (10 minutes)
- Outdoor exploration/Meadow Netting with ID and Wrap-up (40 minutes)

## “Bird Bonanza”

Our fine feathered friends are seen throughout the year, but sometimes it is difficult to see them up close. Students will get a personal look at our bird artifacts to unravel the secrets of flight and the mysteries of bird identification in the field.

- Introduction to Ornithology & Bird Anatomy (10 minutes)
- Native Birds and Adaptations (30 minutes)
- Backyard Bird ID and Songs. Wrap-up (20 minutes)

