

Course of Study Objectives

Life Science

- L7.3 Describe how plants occupy space and use light, nutrients, water, and air
- L7.4 Classify plants according to features
- L7.5 Identify helpful and harmful effects of plants
- L7.10 Determine habitat conditions that support plant growth and survival

I would like to incorporate aquatic plants in my aquarium this year to accomplish the above listed objectives. I feel like I spent a lot of time using the fish themselves as a teaching tool last year. This year I would like to incorporate the study of plants and aquaculture through the use of an aquarium habitat. I would purchase moss balls and several varieties of live aquatic plants for the children to research. I would also have them chart growth, measure and make growth comparisons between potted plants and aquatic plants, and observe the helpful benefits to the fish and habitat. These benefits could also be used as a springboard to discuss local pollution, clearing/filling of wetlands, etc...

Arts

- COS 2 Produce works of art depicting genre subject matter
- COS 6 Compare works of art in terms of complimentary colors, scheme, values, contrast, and asymmetrical balance

My school is a “Disciplined Based Arts in Education School” (DBAE). We focus very heavily on the arts including music, dance, theater, and art. I would like use my classroom aquarium to inspire creativity. The children would be able to study fish and their colors, movement, habitats and be inspired to create works of art representing fish as the subject matter.

I also would really like to do an artist study on Matisse and have the children compare the works, “*Goldfish*” and “*Beasts of the Sea.*” I would have them use technology to research the two works of art and then use art vocabulary and real world observations to write a comparison/contrast paragraph. They then would choose their favorite of the two styles and our own tank to recreate their own work of art in “Matisse Style”

Language Arts

- COS 15 Distinguish point of view

I would like to teach this objective by reading a classic point of view children’s book by Chris Van Allsburg, “Two Bad Ants”. This story chronicles two ant’s journeys through a house and back to the ant hill through their eyes. Illustrations also help the reader to “see” the ant’s world through their point of view. Examples in the book are a cup of coffee is a brown lake, a toaster is a hot cave, etc... I would then have them observe and journal observations of our fish and write a short story from

the point of view of a fish, complete with illustrations.

Writing

COS 23 Write informative or explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly

23a. Intro a topic and group related information together, include illustrations when useful to aid in comprehension

23b. Develop the topic with facts, definitions, and details

COS 28 Conduct a short research project that builds knowledge about a topic

COS 29 Recall information from experiences or gather information from print and digital sources, take brief notes on sources and sort evidence into provided categories

COS 30 Write routinely over extended time frames, including time for research, reflection, and revisions, and shorter time frames such as a single sitting or a day or two for a range of specific completion of tasks, purposes, and audiences

To accomplish these objectives we would use technology to research information on our specific fish in our tank. We would then take this info and design an informational flyer like you would find in a local pet store containing all the facts that a potential fish buyer would need to know, including illustrations. There would also be a section on the flyer where the children would include personal observations about this type of fish gathered through observations and recorded daily in their journal.

Evaluation

Teacher evaluations of the success of these lessons will be accomplished through grading of written products using a rubric, questioning techniques, completion of visual art projects, and teacher observation.