

**Curriculum Unit
Title**

Promoting Sustainability & Environmental Appreciation through Indigenous Wisdom

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KEY LEARNING, ENDURING UNDERSTANDING, ETC.

Students will identify and describe the structures of a local plant (or animal) that support survival and growth. Students will explore how and why the Lenni Lenape have used various plants, including cattails, based on the structure of the plant. Through field investigations and/or virtual field trips, students will explore the health of our local stream and search for evidence of macroinvertebrates and other living structures within our outdoor classroom using leaf pack mesh bags. Students will explain how communities can and should respect nature and live in a sustainable way that benefits our environment and community.

ESSENTIAL QUESTION(S) for the UNIT

What is an environment? Who is in our environment? How do we (all) survive and thrive?

How do we respond to and change our environment?

How can we respectfully make use of our plant relatives based on their structure and composition in sustainable ways?

CONCEPT A

CONCEPT B

CONCEPT C

Structures of plants and animals support survival.

Conduct an experiment to examine the health of local stream.

Our relatives, such as the cattail, serve multiple purposes.

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS A

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS B

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS C

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How do we respond to and change our environment?

How can we respectfully make use of our plant relatives based on their structure and composition in sustainable ways?

VOCABULARY A

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VOCABULARY A

Environment, survival, structure, symmetry

Macroinvertebrates, organisms, pH

Relatives, cattails, Indigenous, sustainable, respect

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION/MATERIAL/TEXT/FILM/RESOURCES

Kimmerer, Robin Wall. Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants. Minneapolis, MN: Milkweed Editions, 2015.

Stroud Water Research Center. "Become Empowered and Energized Learning About Your Local Watershed!" Leaf Pack Network. Stroud Water Research Center, 2020. <https://leafpacknetwork.org/>.

Lenape Happenings in Delaware. "Interview: Lenape Indian Tribe of Delaware Principal Chief Dennis J. Coker." YouTube. September 5, 2016. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4xwAtDoQP9A>

Rosanelli, Tim. "How to Make a Woven Cattail Mat." YouTube. Video File. July 3, 2013. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?reload=9&v=JmBQNGHZQAk>

PermaTree. "EGo-Centric VS ECo-Centric." Web log. PermaTree Ecuador (blog), March 30, 2018. <https://www.permatree.org/permaculture/ego-centric-vs-eco-centric/>.