



Family Fun Activities and Investigations

The following are sites where families can participate in programs or interact with exhibits to learn more about ecology and the environment. Please contact the sites specifically to learn about their current exhibits and calendar of events.

Anita C. Leight Estuary Center

(410-612-1688) <http://www.otterpointcreek.org>

Assateague Island National Seashore

(410-641-1443 ext.232) <http://www.nps.gov/asis/>

Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge

(410-228-2677) <http://blackwater.fws.gov>

Irvine Nature Center

(410-484-2413) <http://www.explorenature.org/>

Marshy Point Nature Center

(410-887-2817)

[http://www.co.ba.md.us/Agencies/recreation/
countyparks/marshypoint/index.html](http://www.co.ba.md.us/Agencies/recreation/countyparks/marshypoint/index.html)

Northpoint State Park

(410-592-2897)

[http://www.dnr.state.md.us/publiclands/central/
northpoint.html](http://www.dnr.state.md.us/publiclands/central/northpoint.html)

Oregon Ridge Nature Center

(410-887-1815)

[http://www.co.ba.md.us/Agencies/recreation/
countyparks/oregonridgelodge/index.html](http://www.co.ba.md.us/Agencies/recreation/countyparks/oregonridgelodge/index.html)

Career Connections



Take a few minutes to discuss with your child these different career opportunities for people interested in science.

Biologist

A scientist that deals with the origin, history, characteristics, habits, etc. of plants and animals

Botanist

A scientist that deals with plants and plant life

Forester

A scientist that plants and takes care of forests

Marine Scientist

A scientist who studies plants and animals that live in the ocean

Museum Curator

A person in charge of a museum

Naturalist

A scientist who studies and observes plants and animals in their habitat

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A Parent's Informational Guide to:

I AM A SCIENTIST: ECO-EXPLORERS



Grade 1



I Am a Scientist: Eco-Explorers

I Am a Scientist: Eco-Explorers is a unit of study in which students will recognize themselves as scientists.

The unit is designed to be taught using both the indoor and outdoor classroom. Throughout this unit, students utilize a variety of scientific and mathematical skills to develop their understanding of how animals find and eat food in order to survive. The Baltimore County Public Schools' curriculum is built upon the indicators of the Maryland Voluntary State Curriculum. The indicators addressed in this unit are listed below.

Science

3.0 Life Science – The students will use scientific skills and processes to explain the dynamic nature of living things, their interactions, and the results from the interactions that occur over time.

B. Cells (VSC)

Describe evidence from investigations that living things are made of parts too small to be seen with the unaided eye.

- Use magnifying instruments to observe parts of a variety of living things, such as leaves, seeds, insects, worms, etc. to describe (drawing or text) parts seen with the magnifier.
- Use information gathered from observations to compare the descriptions (drawings or text) of the different parts seen.
- Describe some of the ideas or questions that result from examining organisms more closely.

Provide evidence that all organisms are made of parts that help them carry out the basic functions of life.

- Gather information and direct evidence that humans and other animals have different body parts used to seek, find, and take in food.

E. Flow of Matter and Energy

1. Describe some of the ways in which animals depend on plants and on each other.

- Examine organisms in a wide variety of environments to gather information on how animals satisfy their need for food.
 - Some animals eat only plants.
 - Some animals eat only other animals.
 - Some animals eat both plants and other animals.



Unit Vocabulary

Encourage your children to use the vocabulary listed below when telling you about what they are learning during this science unit.

animal — an organism that can move on its own to find food

communicate — to share and tell what you know and what you have learned

hand lens — a tool that helps us see things more closely by making things look bigger

model — an object that is different from the real thing but can be used to learn something about the real thing

observe — to use your senses to learn about something

organism — a living thing

plant — an organism that cannot move on its own to find food

scientist — a person who investigates, learns and knows about the world around them



Books to Read

Take some time to read a few books about ecology with your child. Books about organisms and habitats can be found in the non-fiction section of the library (call numbers 577-599). The non-fiction section of your school and public library also has books on this topic. To find books in the catalogue, use the search terms: organisms, scientist, scientific model, and plants/animals. Possible books are listed below.

Amazing Animals, Betsy Franco

Mealworms, Donna Schaffer

I'll Use a Hand Lens with My Friends!, Kelly Doudna

What is a Scientist?, Barbara Lehn

Internet Sites



Go to onLINE website at www.bcps.org/offices/lis. Select "Databases" link to open the Database Portal. Use the following login protocols for databases you wish to use.

SIRS Discoverer/ SIRS Discoverer WebFind
User Name: bcps
Password: sirs

BrainPop
User Name: bcps
Password: brainpop