Sara Brown

Science Shoebox Activity

**Title:** Hide and Seek

**Content Standard:**  5 – Biodiversity and Change

**Grade Level Expectations:**

GLE 0307.5.1 Explore the relationship between an organism’s characteristics and its ability to survive in a particular environment.

**Checks for Understanding:**

* 0307.5.1 Create representations of animals that have characteristics necessary to survive in a particular environment
* Investigate the connection between an organism’s characteristics and its ability to survive in a specific environment.

**State Performance indicators:**

SPI 0307.5.1 Investigate an organism’s characteristics and evaluate how these features enable it to survive in a particular environment.

**Task Objective:** The students will examine cards showing animals using camouflage and complete an activity that shows how an animal’s ability to survive is increased by these characteristics of camouflage.

**Materials:**

Student information sheet, markers, white copy paper, cards of organisms using camouflage, 4 small Styrofoam cups, 1 container to complete the activity in, green Easter grass (plastic or paper), tri-colored pasta (10 pieces of each color)

**Background Knowledge for Teachers:**

All organisms need a way to survive in their environment. Some organisms use a method such as camouflage. Organisms will use this strategy to remain hidden from their predators to keep from being eaten or to be sneaky enough to catch their prey for food! Some organisms remain in a fixed appearance such as a tiger, while others can change their appearance such as a cuttlefish.

**Across the Curriculum:**

Math

Collect data from all groups that completed the “Hide and Seek” activity. Create a bar graph of which organisms (tri-colored pasta) were caught and how many were caught. Interpret and analyze the information.

SPI 0306.5.1 Interpret a frequency table, bar graph, pictograph, or line plot.

Social Studies

Discuss and compare different characteristics of ecosystems. Decide what ecosystems the organisms (on the cards from the activity “Hide and Seek”) would live in.

3.3.spi.8. Differentiate the distinguishing characteristics of ecosystems (i.e., deserts, grasslands, rainforests).

Language Arts

Create a graphic organizer for ideas for an informative short story from the perspective of an organism that uses camouflage. Write an informative short story from the perspective of an organism that uses camouflage.

**SPI 0301.3.1** Identify the purpose for writing (i.e., to entertain, to inform, to respond to a picture, story, or art).

**SPI 0301.3.9** Complete a simple graphic organizer to group ideas for writing.

**References:**

http://www.bioedonline.org/lessons/mimicry-camouflage.cfm

http://www.tn.gov/education/ci/english/index.shtml