

EPA Partnering for the Future, Monthly EE Lessons Overview and Sequence

Season	Month	EE Lesson Title	Learning Theme	Skills & Learning Objectives: Students will...	In-class Learning Topics	Linking Topic	Goal
Fall <a href="#">Season Overview</a> 	September	<a href="#">Me &amp; My Veggie</a> Meet the Farmers <a href="#">Farmer Video</a>	Do you have a favorite veggie? Oxbow Farmers do!	... share their experiences with vegetables and illustrate their own favorite veggie.	Trees, Seasons, and Apples.	Food crops lifecycle (pumpkins/apples)	Students and instructors get to know each other reflect on food that comes from farms.
		<a href="#">Inside, Outside, In Between</a>  <a href="#">CommuniTree Contract and Linking Tool</a>	Nature can be your classroom and farmers can be your teachers!	...distinguish between and compare objects and behaviors that can be found outdoors and indoors.	Leaves and tree parts.  Introduction to the senses.	Food crops lifecycle (pumpkins/apples)	Establish Oxbow Farm and the outdoors as a place where learning can happen.
		<a href="#">What is Nature?</a>	We can find nature outside, but not everything outdoors is part of nature.	...use a scavenger hunt to identify items that can be considered part of nature. ...find nature in their own school yard, learning that nature is all around us.		Food crops lifecycle (pumpkins/apples)	Introduce the concept of “nature” and begin to distinguish what is nature and what is not.
		Welcome to Your Fall Field Trip <a href="#">Farmer Video</a>	A Farm is a place in nature	...prepare for their fall field trip and begin to understand farms and the six plant parts.	Parts of an apple; apple lifecycle; counting seeds.	Food crops lifecycle (pumpkins/apples)	Reinforce positive behavioral expectations for learning and having fun at Oxbow, and introduce the six plant parts.
	October	<a href="#">Fall Farm Adventure</a>	In the fall, we can discover six plant parts that all work together to make energy!	...identify the six plant parts and harvest and eat them on a snacking tour of the Oxbow Kids’ Farm. ...save seeds by threshing and sorting.	Apple foods; introduction to pumpkins.	Food crops lifecycle (pumpkins/apples)  Plant and animal needs.	Engage students, teachers, and parent chaperones experientially at Oxbow and make connections about plant parts and lifecycles throughout the seasons.
		Teacher-led pumpkin investigation or Oxbow lesson: <a href="#">The Pumpkin Rot Experiment</a>	Decomposition is a part of the lifecycle of a pumpkin!	...dissect a pumpkin and save the seeds. ...do a sink/float test with their pumpkins. ...begin the pumpkin rot experiment.	Sink/float.	Food crops lifecycle (pumpkins/apples)	Continue making connections about pumpkins and apples and the foods we eat that are made with these fruits, as well as their lifecycles.
	November	<a href="#">What makes up soil? Part 1: Sorting</a>	The soil is alive!	...sort a soil sample into different categories of materials. ...contribute to a class discussion to define what soil is.	Pumpkin rot experiment.  Making observations and communicating findings in a science journal.	Food crops lifecycle (pumpkins/apples)  Plant and animal needs	Investigate and observe living things that need soil to survive by sorting and categorizing soil into its many components.
		<a href="#">What’s living in your school’s soil?</a>	The soil at your school is alive just like soil at a farm!	...investigate soil at school and compare what is found there to the soil from Oxbow.		Plant and animal needs	Use the outdoor science toolkit to dig into the soil at school.

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<p>Winter <a href="#">Season Overview</a></p> 	December	Introducing Compost Stew book and <a href="#">Farmer Video</a>	Let's learn about compost!	...watch an Oxbow farmer video and read and engage with the children's book "Compost Stew"	Pumpkin rot experiment.  Winter trees.	Plant and animal needs	Connect the letters of the alphabet with everyday ingredients of compost.
		<a href="#">What makes up soil? Part 2: Compost and Worms</a>	Compost feeds the soil, the worms, and our plants!	...review what they know about worms. ...contribute to a discussion about worm habitat. ...build a model compost chamber for an in-class experiment.	Introduction to weather and precipitation.	Food crops lifecycle  Plant and animal needs	Students understand compost as essential for soil, providing food and shelter for worms and nutrients for plants.
		<a href="#">A-Z: Compost Stew</a>	We can find ingredients for compost stew at home and school.	...practice comprehension of compostable materials by finding materials that start with each letter of the alphabet.	Gingerbread and holiday themes.	Plant and animal needs  Decomposition	Students review the letters of the alphabet and identify compostable materials or "worm food."
		<a href="#">Introducing Squirrels and Adaptations Farmer Video</a>	Let's learn about animals in the winter.	...define and discuss behavioral and physical adaptations of squirrels from observations made during a video.	Winter trees.  Monitoring compost chambers.	Plant and animal needs	Practice making observations.
	January	<a href="#">Squirrels and Seeds</a>	Squirrels and trees help to meet each other's needs	...review the components of a healthy habitat and identify squirrel adaptations. ...comprehend how squirrels have adapted to save food during the winter and how that connects to helping trees grow.	What materials can be composted (worm food) and what cannot.	Plant and animal needs	Students understand squirrel behavior they observe around their school in the fall and winter are adaptations to survive the seasons.
		<a href="#">Squirrels and Seeds post-lesson activity</a>	Where there is water, there is life!	...review a squirrel's habitat needs. ...create a Venn diagram to show that trees and squirrels both need water. ...build connection to Oxbow by viewing pictures of water at Oxbow through the changing seasons.		Plant and animal needs  Connection to water	Students review a squirrel's habitat and adaptations and highlight the importance of water for living things, including humans.
	February	<a href="#">Intro to the Watershed</a>	A watershed is an area of land where water flows to a common point.	...describe how water flows downstream, pulled by gravity ...trace the journey of water from small streams to larger rivers, lakes and the Puget Sound		Plant and animal needs  Connection to water	Students are introduced to watersheds and learn how rivers and streams create connections between shared habitats.
		<a href="#">Watersheds Hand Map</a> post-lesson activity	A watershed is an area of land where water flows to a common point.	...create a hand map where each finger is a river that connect in a large lake ...understand through visual illustration the human impact on water		Connection to water	Students can demonstrate that water flows from small streams to larger rivers/lakes/oceans and that land around rivers can be used in many ways.

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Spring <a href="#">Season Overview</a> 	March	Introducing macroinvertebrates <a href="#">Farmer Video</a>	Let's learn about animals in the water	...define "macroinvertebrates" by watching an Oxbow farmer video	Science night: presentation of compost chambers	Plant and animal needs Connection to water	Introduce and discuss new vocabulary words to use in future lessons.
		<a href="#">Animals in the Water</a>	A river or lake is a special habitat for animals of all sizes which all need clean water to survive.	...demonstrate how energy moves through an aquatic ecosystem. ...make observations of various aquatic macroinvertebrates. ...recognize the effects of pollution on an ecosystem and how different aquatic animals have varying tolerance levels.	Food groups	Plant and animal needs Connection to water	Students apply understanding of food webs to the direct actions they can adopt to become stewards of their local waterways.
		<a href="#">How Does the Water Flow?</a> Post-lesson activity	Dragonflies have adaptations to survive in their habitat. You can help keep their habitat clean.	...review what makes a healthy habitat, with a focus on macroinvertebrates. ...observe the habitat needs and adaptations of dragonflies through reading a book. ...discuss how to keep the water clean.		Connection to water	Review aquatic macroinvertebrates and discuss what we can do as people to help keep their habitat clean.
	April	Introducing macroinvertebrates <a href="#">Farmer Video</a>	Go beyond the farm to explore the orchard and the hard-working trees!	...review the expectations and structure of a field trip by watching an Oxbow farmer video introducing the orchard. ...get excited about tasting fresh farm foods through creating their own illustrations.	Plant a seed for Mother's Day; make predictions about how the plant will grow; record observations in science journal.	Plant and animal needs	Remind students and teachers about behavior expectations on the farm and continue connection to place.
	May	<a href="#">Spring Farm Adventure</a>	Spring brings warm weather for planting seeds and growing food on the farm.	... discover and taste early season crops growing in the fields. ...discover signs of spring. ...review the needs of a plant by planting a seed. ...explore the worm tower.	Mother's Day seed observations	Food crops lifecycle	Experience first-hand the seasonality of nature's cycles, where food comes from and how it grows, and explore the farm as a habitat.
	June	<a href="#">Apple Lifecycle</a>  <a href="#">Spring Orchard Stations</a>	When a springtime apple tree has all it needs, it makes fall fruit for you and me!	...use scientific tools and their science journals to record observations about a tree in the orchard ...review the needs of a plant by participating in a plant-needs relay game		Plant and animal needs Food crops lifecycle	Gain a better understanding of where food comes from through visiting the orchard, investigating orchard trees, and exploring the seasonality of how these trees grow.