**Program Name:** Post-Lesson Activity: Squirrels and Seeds  
**Duration:** 30 minutes  
**Audience:** Frank Wagner kindergarteners  

**Theme(s):**
Where there is water, there is life!

**Goal(s):** To review a squirrel’s habitat and adaptations and to reinforce the importance of water for living things, including humans, in preparation for our upcoming Watershed lesson.

**Objectives:**

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<tr>
<th>Students Will Be Able To (SWBAT):</th>
<th>Educator verification method:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Observe squirrels in their habitat, focusing on the physical adaptations that help them survive.</td>
<td>Students discuss how trees help squirrels and how squirrels help trees by drawing from their schoolyard observations during the Squirrels and Seeds lesson.</td>
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<td>2. Identify some survival needs of squirrels and trees separately and find they share a common need for water.</td>
<td>Students are able to identify the survival needs of squirrels (drawing from their experience with the Squirrels and Seeds lesson) and trees. After exploring the needs of each type of organism separately, they are able to identify the needs that these both have in common.</td>
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<td>3. Practice making predictions about where water comes from and where it goes.</td>
<td>Through reading <em>The Little Raindrop</em> and the Oxbow PowerPoint, students will partake in an interactive discussion about water, how it changes through the seasons and where it comes from/where it goes.</td>
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**Materials:**
- Book *The Little Raindrop* by Joanna Gray, can be found on getepic.com or YouTube  
- Your classroom CommuniTree  
- Oxbow PowerPoint: Water Through the Seasons

**Introduction:**

Use the CommuniTree to review the habitat (food, shelter, water, space) for a squirrel. Move leaves down to the bottom of the tree to show the transition from fall to winter or make squirrel nests by clumping leaves together in the tree branches.

Ask students, “What do both trees and squirrels need to survive?”
Create the Venn diagram shown above and a list of vocabulary words. Option: use the smart board so students can take turns dragging the words to where they belong on the Venn diagram.

Ask students what living things need water. (Have the book *The Little Raindrop* pre-loaded on smart board).

**Activity:**

Read *The Little Raindrop* by Joanna Gray and start a discussion about how water gets used and reused again and again by plants and animals.

**Inquiry Q’s:**

Why did we move our CommuniTree fall leaves to the bottom of the tree? How have the trees outside our classroom changed?

What was the weather like when we went outside with the farmers to observe squirrels in their habitat?

Where do raindrops come from? Where do raindrops go after they fall on the ground?

**Conclusion:**

Use Oxbow PowerPoint to see how water looks at Oxbow through the seasons. Ask the prompted inquiry questions within the PowerPoint:

Slide 2: Water is a part of Nature and it changes forms through the seasons! Can you guess the season shown in each picture?
Slide 3: What do you notice? Is there water in this picture?
Slide 5: Where did this water come from? Clues to observe: What are the people wearing? What size are the farm plants?
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Slide 8: During this season in Washington it barely rains at all. If you were a farmer growing food, you’d need to water your plants! Where does the sprinkler water come from?
Slide 9: Can you find a lake and a river? Is the water high or low? Can you guess the season?
Slide 11: Squishy farm fields in this season, and lots of visitors to the farm! Plants and trees are getting ready for a cold season ahead! Do you notice an orange fruit!? 
Slide 13: A farm is a place in nature and is a HABITAT. Watch the tree in the middle closely!
Slide 14: Can you spot the tree in the center? What happened?
Slide 15: All living things need water! Even farm plants! How else do we use water on a farm?

At the end of the PowerPoint make predictions to the question, “How do farmers use water?”

**NGSS Connections:**

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<tr>
<th>Dimensions from Framework</th>
<th>What students are doing</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Science and Engineering Practices (SEP)</strong>&lt;br&gt;Obtaining, Evaluating and Communicating Information</td>
<td>Students read <em>The Little Rain Drop</em> and use the OxEd PowerPoint learning a new theme about water and life; students discuss their opinions in a group setting facilitated by the teacher.</td>
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<td><strong>Disciplinary Core Ideas (DCI)</strong>&lt;br&gt;K-LS1-1 Structures and Process: Use observations to describe patterns of what plants and animals (including humans) need to survive.</td>
<td>Through observations, students understand that squirrels and trees (and all plants and animals) rely on water to survive.</td>
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<td><strong>Crosscutting Concepts (CC)</strong>&lt;br&gt;Patterns</td>
<td>Students recognize that the CommuniTree is cycling through seasonal changes. Students are introduced to water and how it cycles through the seasons and throughout nature.</td>
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