Program Name: Squirrels and Seeds Pre-Lesson Activity
Duration: 15 minutes
Audience: Frank Wagner kindergarteners

Theme(s):
Adaptations help animals to survive in their habitats

Outside spaces can be classrooms too! Remember the Wildcat Way!

Goal(s): Reintroduce the CommuniTree contract and practice making observations about squirrels in their habitat to prepare students for their upcoming outside Squirrels and Seeds lesson at the school.

Objective(s):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Students Will Be Able To (SWBAT):</th>
<th>Educator verification method:</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Recall that outside spaces can be classrooms too and will remember to still use the “Wildcat Way” inside and outside.</td>
<td>Students revisit the CommuniTree and update it with seasonal manipulatives Students discuss green choices and red choices.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Make observations of squirrels in their habitat and their physical adaptations that help them survive.</td>
<td>Students watch the Oxbow video which introduces adaptations as a new vocabulary word defined as something that helps the animal to survive.</td>
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Teacher Background Information:

Oxbow will be using the CommuniTree to remind students of the behavioral expectations we established and agreed upon in the first lesson with Frank Wagner. This timing is especially important due to the upcoming lesson which brings students outdoors at school.

Oxbow educators will bring the following CommuniTree Winter manipulatives to the classroom on the day of the lesson:
- Squirrel, owl, nest, and seeds/cones
- Season label “Winter/Invierno”

*Lesson day reminder: Our Squirrels and Seeds lesson takes place outside in nature using Frank Wagner’s schoolyard. If students are coming in from outside prior to lesson remind them to keep their jackets on to be ready to go back outside.

Introduction:

Remind students that Oxbow farmers will be coming to their classroom soon to do a special outdoor lesson.
Activity:

Play the Oxbow Squirrel Adaptations video/Adaptaciones de Una Ardilla (Video Link)

After playing the Oxbow Squirrel Adaptations Video, lead a brief discussion about other green and red choices that weren’t mentioned by Oxbow. Remind students of green and red behaviors to prepare for good conduct outside the classroom.

Inquiry Q’s:

Why did we move our CommuniTree fall leaves to the bottom of the tree?

Do the trees outside our classroom have leaves on their branches?

What other observations did you make about the squirrel video?

What does the word *adaptation* mean?

Can you think of any other adaptations squirrels might have to help them survive? What about other animals? Do they have adaptations too?

What are some other green choices we can make when we learn outside?

What are some red choices that will get in our way of having fun learning outside?

Conclusion:

Have students find their name on their CommuniTree leaf and move it down to the bottom of the tree to “re-sign” the contract. (This can be done by teachers later if time does not permit.)

NGSS Connections:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dimensions from Framework</th>
<th>What students are doing</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Science and Engineering Practices (SEP)</td>
<td>Students ask questions based on observations made during the video to find out more information about squirrels and their habits and adaptations.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Asking Questions</td>
<td>Students watch the Oxbow video containing the vocabulary word <em>adaptation</em> and can describe squirrel adaptations.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Obtaining, Evaluating and Communicating Information</td>
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<tr>
<td>Crosscutting Concepts (CC)</td>
<td>Students recognize that the CommuniTree is cycling through seasonal changes that happen over and over again.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Patterns</td>
<td>Students understand through the video that squirrels have parts of their bodies adapted to function for a specific reason (focusing especially on fur to keep an outside animal warm, and claws to dig, eat, or climb.)</td>
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<td>Structure and Function</td>
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