

Class Summary

Quick Facts

Outside: 2 hours 30 minutes

Grade: 4-8th

Offered: Mid-March through December

Physical Activity: 2 mile hike including two steep hills

Other: No special skills required

Concepts

- Exploration
- Expression
- Stewardship

[Minnesota Academic Standards >](#)

- Science
- Language Arts
- Physical Education

[Classroom Activities >](#)

- **Pre-Activity:** *Microhabitat Hunt*
- **Post-Activity:** *Environmental Enthusiasts*

STEM Components

- Study/Observe
- Inquiry
- Identify

IB Profiles

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Inquirers | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Open-minded |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Knowledgeable | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Caring |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Thinkers | <input type="checkbox"/> Risk-takers |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Communicators | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Balanced |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Principled | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reflective |

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Outcomes, students will:

1. Investigate the natural environment using their senses.
2. Use a journal to document findings and record impressions and feelings.
3. Learn about individuals who's personal experience with the outdoors has impacted others.
4. Begin to shape their values, behaviors, and attitudes towards the environment and themselves.

Brief Synopsis:

Experience the outdoors in a unique and personal way! Participants will become "naturally" immersed while traversing across the Root River landscape. By utilizing the senses and sharpening interpretative skills, students will unveil what lies beyond the hiking trail. Interactive games and a variety of drawing and writing exercises are incorporated within the class to promote creative and imaginative expression using nature as the inspiration.

Outline:

Journal Preparation (15 minutes)

A journal is a place to record impressions, feelings, and observations. Each student will personalize a journal which will be used exclusively during the class. The unique collection of journal pages provides opportunities for students to reflect upon their experience through reflective writing, poetry, and art.

Meet an Outdoor Enthusiast (10 minutes)

Did you know Jim Brandenburg took his first wildlife photograph at age 14? Or Tom Brown Jr., now a teacher, spent 10 years living in the wild learning the skills of tracking and survival? Each student will discover an individual who's interest of the outdoors has made an impact on both humans and the environment in a unique way.

On the Trail (2 hours 35 minutes)

Nature holds many secrets that can only be discovered with curiosity, time, and experience in the outdoors. Students will travel approximately 2 miles along the beautiful bluffs and banks of the Root River. Along the way students will engage in activities and journal exercises designed to promote a better understanding of the experience. Such activities include; Hug a Tree, Nature Scavenger Hunt, Sketch the Root, What's That Sound?, poetry, and more.