

CHICO CREEK NATURE CENTER –Animal Scat ID LAB

Focus:

Animal scat is an indication of their presence. Students will learn how to look for scat to identify unseen animals, and how scat is used in nature.

Pre-visit Activities:

Diagram of a general animal digestive system for vocabulary and coloring.

Post-visit Activities:

Tell/write a story about the visit and one new thing the student learned.

NATURE CENTER VISIT: (Time: 45 minutes)

Pre-visit assessment: What happens to animal scat after it leaves the animal?

LAB:

Discuss digestive system of different animals, ecological role of scat.

Observe specimens of real and replica scat from a variety of animals:

Coyote, snake, bird, horse, rabbit, caterpillar

Sort by herbivore and carnivore

Draw different types of scat and try to represent what is inside the scat.

FIELD:

Search for fresh scat - brief observation walk in surrounds of Nature Center.

End-of-visit assessment:

Present new scat and have class suggest what the animal may have eaten.

Science Content Standards – Grade 1:

Life Sciences:

2. Plants and animals meet their needs in different ways

b) Animals need water and food

c) Animals eat plants or other animals for food and may also use ... other animals (and their byproducts) for shelter and nesting,

Science Investigation and Experimentation skills:

Ask questions, conduct investigations

e) Look for discrepancies in similar objects

Science Content Standards – Grade 5:

Life Sciences:

2. Plants and animals have structures for digestion, waste disposal

a) multicellular organisms have structures to transport materials

c) The sequential steps of digestion ... function of the digestive system.

Science Investigation and Experimentation skills:

6. a) Classify using appropriate criteria.