

THE LEARNING LANDSCAPE
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION FIELD TRIP
AT ROGER WILLIAMS PARK BOTANICAL CENTER



ECOSYSTEMS AND ADAPTATIONS

Students are invited to explore plants from around the world and discover the adaptations that help them thrive in different climates. Their journey includes investigating cacti typical to desert ecosystems, palms from the tropics, orchids from the rainforest and even a carnivorous plant bog. Have you ever fed a Venus Flytrap? Learning Landscape students have!



NATIVE MAMMALS



Have you ever wondered what coyote fur feels like? Do you know which mammal is also the only native North American marsupial? What can teeth tell us about what an animal eats and how it lives? Discover the wild native mammals that make New England their home. Students are invited to participate in an up-close investigation of skins and skulls to answer these questions, and many more!

NATIVE BIRDS



What makes birds unique in the animal kingdom? Why, feathers, of course! See how the structure of a feather helps to make flight possible. Students investigate wings, beaks, and feet to understand what various adaptations tell us about the birds in our own backyard. They also gain an appreciation for birds as architects by studying nest design and materials.



RECYCLE, REUSE AND RENEW



Everyone knows that they should recycle, but do you know what happens to recycled materials after you put them in the bin? Did you know that the fleece sweatshirt in your closet may have fibers made from recycled plastic milk bottles? Or that glass must be sorted by color before it can be melted down for reuse? Students learn some fun recycling facts while making a project to take home that uses recyclable materials.



SEED STARTING

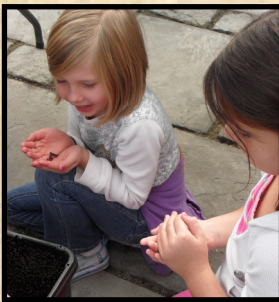


Growing your own plants from seed can be fun and rewarding, and that's something that the students who visit the Learning Landscape understand first-hand. Using planters that they make themselves, students plant seeds to bring home. At the same time, they learn about what seeds need in order to germinate, and how to care for the plants that they grow themselves.



SEED DIVERSITY

Do you know the difference between a monocot and a dicot, or which seed is the worlds largest? Can you name ten seeds that you eat on a regular basis? Students learn the answers to these questions and more as they explore seeds of all sizes and shapes. Take a moment to consider that flour is made from wheat seeds, that the largest coconuts can weigh as much as forty pounds, or that tiny dandelion and milkweed seeds have their own "parachutes" to carry them on the wind. You're sure to agree that there is much to be learned from the diverse world of seeds.



WORMS AND DECOMPOSERS



Did you know that there can be as many as a million earthworms living under an acre of undeveloped land? Worms and other decomposers are a critical link in the natural pyramid, returning nutrients to the soil, which in turn support plant growth. Students investigate a vermicomposting bin, and have the opportunity to study a population of Red Wiggler earthworms.



THE WATER CYCLE AND POLLUTION PREVENTION

Did you know that the same water that we drink today was around when dinosaurs walked the earth? From rain drop to reservoir students dive in to the water cycle. What does cutting your lawn, walking your dog and washing your car have in common? All of these actions could have negative effects on the quality of our water. By viewing a model of a watershed and adding "pollutants" students can witness how water travels from the storm drain on your street all the way to the ocean.





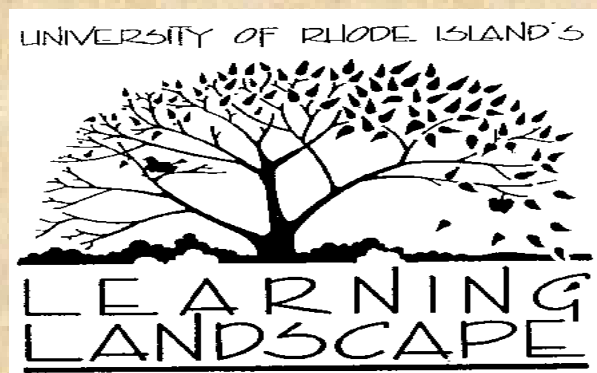
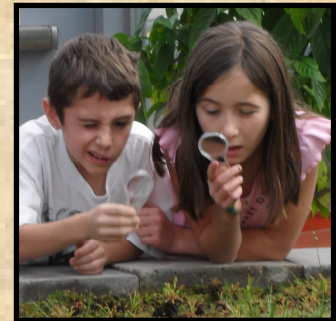
ENERGY 101

A fun and interactive approach to one of the hottest topics of this decade: energy. We will spark your interest with simple, hands-on lessons about conserving energy and the basics of solar power. Learn how solar panels absorb and reflect the sun's rays and make a UV-bead bracelet to take home!



THE LEARNING LANDSCAPE NATURE JOURNAL

Every student who visits the Learning Landscape is provided with a journaling tool that can be used either at school or at home to review and apply the concepts that they learned on their field trip. Students are encouraged to observe the natural world around them, and record what they see, both in pictures and words.



Visit our website for more information:
www.uri.edu/cels/ceoc/youthprograms.html