

Making the Grade: School Program Menu for 4th Grades 2018-2019



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The following is a list of presentations offered to fourth grade classes in Jasper County. This is not a complete list, and for other options or questions about a program, please contact the naturalists. We work with teachers to fit our programming with their curriculum!

- All programs are free and materials will be provided unless otherwise noted.
- Although descriptions are for in-class, all programs can be adapted for outdoor locations.
- Please call or email at least 2 weeks in advance to guarantee your desired day and time.
- Plan for 30-40 minutes per program.
- Have your students come up with a list of questions for the naturalists before the scheduled program time.

Fall-Winter Programs (September-December)

The Food Chain Game

This active game will demonstrate the natural cycles of food chains, and in this case, specifically the clover—rabbit—fox food chain. The naturalist will review key terms (food chain, food web, carnivore, herbivore, producer, decomposer, habitat) and explain the rules of the game. This is best played outdoors in a large open area and by combining multiple classrooms for more student players. After playing a few rounds, students will see how energy is passed through the food chain, the interaction between living and non-living parts of the environment, and how the balance of populations shifts.

***4-LS1-1, 4-LS1-2**

Bison on the Plains

Travel back in time to when Lewis and Clark explored Iowa and imagine what they felt when they saw the great herds of bison on the plains. Students will learn how Native Americans utilized bison and how the population of these shaggy beasts was changed forever in America as people moved west. We will also create a life-size bison demonstration in the classroom!

***4-LS1-1**

Trash Audit

How much waste is your school generating? In this program students will conduct their very own trash audit. Classroom trash will be sorted by category and weighed. Students will work in teams to process one day's worth of trash and calculate how much trash is produced at their school every day. To finish, we will discuss different ways to reduce trash from entering the waste stream. This program will take around 45-60 minutes to complete. The use of a large area such as a gym or cafeteria is preferred to sort and weigh trash. Teachers will need to provide gloves and one day's worth of trash.

***4-ESS3-1**



Winter Programs (December-February)

The Ice Age

Students will be introduced to (or review) what fossils are and how they are made. Using specific examples from the Ice Age, the students will explore fossils of teeth, look at pictures of extinct mammals, and compare themselves to the size of a giant beaver. We will also observe a mini glacier in the classroom to gain a better understanding of how landforms were created by these massive ice sheets.



***4-LS1-1, 4-ESS1-1, 4-ESS2-1**

Geology Rocks!

Students will "dig" into our ever-changing earth and discover how geology rocks the world every day! The naturalist will review what the three types of rock are and show examples. Students will learn that the earth is always changing and that fossils are important tools in understanding Earth's history.



***4-ESS1-1**

Agatha's Feather Bed—A "Fowl" Experience

The naturalist will begin this program with a demonstration on where everyday products we use come from. Students will make connections with things they use and resources that come from the earth. The story, *Agatha's Feather Bed*, will be read to the class. This story explains that "everything comes from something" and in a turn-about, naked geese remind Agatha of where her feather bed came from. Students will understand what conservation is and how they can be better stewards of the earth.

***4-ESS3-1**

Amazing Adaptations

Students will learn how certain adaptations help animals survive by studying animal furs, skulls and feathers in small groups.

Adaptations the naturalist will cover include: warmth, waterproofing, coloration, camouflage, sight, smell, hearing, and bird beak adaptations.



***4-LS1-1**

4th Grade Field Trips

Our Prairie: Past, Present and Future

Centered on the history of Iowa, the prairie, Native Americans, geology, and paleontology. Field trips will be scheduled at Jacob Krumm Nature Preserve in the fall or spring. Please call or email for more information.



Wagaman Mill and Museum Pioneer Field Day

Students visit the "old mill" in Lynnville for an interactive day of experiencing milling and pioneer life. There are 8 different hands-on stations. Please contact the naturalists for a packet of info about this field trip.

