Grade 3
Lesson: Landforms and Ecosystems
Reference to English Interconnections Lesson Landforms and Ecosystems pg. 29

Social Studies Standard(s): Standard I, Objective 1

Content Objective(s):
Students will use a dictionary to find the definition of different ecosystems.

Language Objective(s):
Students will describe different ecosystems.

Essential Questions:
How does environment determine where living things (humans) exist?

Required Academic Vocabulary for Word Wall:
Listen: ecosystem, landform
Speak:
Read:
Write:
Sentence Frames:

Materials:
- Dictionaries
- Video – Real World Science – Ecosystems and Biomes, USOE emedia
- Pictures of ecosystems
- 3X5 cards (8 per student); crayons, pencils, 1 plastic baggie per student

Additional Lesson Vocabulary:
tundra, desert, plain, tropic, grassland, mountain, forest, wetland

Lesson: Instructional Time: 30-40 minutes

Opening: (4 minutes)
Review what the students have learned previously about landforms and ecosystems. (See 2nd grade Navigating Habitats Around the World)

Introduction to New Material (Direct Instruction): (10 minutes)
T: “I am going to pass out 8 cards to each of you.”
- Pass out eight 3X5 cards to each student.
T: “I am going to hold up a picture. Each picture is of an ecosystem. When I hold up the picture, I need you to write the name of the ecosystem on one of your cards.”
- Teacher will hold up a picture of the desert, plain, tropic, tundra, grassland, mountain, forest, and wetland one at time.
T: “What is this a picture of? Describe the picture to your neighbor and write down its name on your card.”
S: will describe the picture to their neighbor and write its name down. Desert – “I see sand. I see cactus. It looks dry.”...
T: “Write down the name of this ecosystem.”
S: will write desert.
- Show the students how to write the ecosystems if they don’t already know.
- Go through each of the pictures.
T: “Now, let’s do an activity. I am going to turn on a silent movie with landforms and ecosystems. When you see a landform that exists in an ecosystem, I need you to hold up that card.”
- Turn on the movie and hold up the cards with the students and say the name of the card when you hold it up.

Guided Practice (10 minutes)

Modeling Cycle
Teacher Does:
T: “Now that you know all the different ecosystems, I need you to use the dictionary and find the definition. You need to write the definition on the back side of each card and draw a picture.”
T: “Let me show you what I mean. I will start with tropic. Here is my tropic card. I will open the dictionary and find the word tropic.”
T: “Now I will turn the tropic card over and write the definition and draw a picture of the tropic with the different landforms.”

All Students Do:
T: “It is your turn.”
S: will use dictionaries to find the definition of desert, plain, tropic, tundra, grassland, mountain, forest, and wetland.

Closing: (4 minutes)
Discuss which landforms are found in the different ecosystems and which ecosystems make good areas to establish human communities. Discuss which ecosystem their community is in. Discuss which landforms are located in or near your community.

**Assessment:**

- Holding up the cards during the movie and writing definitions

**Extra Ideas:**

- Have the students play a matching game with the cards.
- Have the students quiz each other.
desert
plain
tropic
Tundra
Grassland
forest
wetland