

SIGNPOST #2 – Sample Page

SCIENCE *Green Plants:* Shrubs, grass, ferns and flowers all provide the important foundation of a woodland. They are the food for many animals that live here. The leaves capture sunlight while the roots bring nutrients and water up into the plant from the soil. This process circulates non-living things to the living organisms. Plants produce seeds that are also food.

When the plant dies, it falls to the ground and decomposes into soil.

EXPLAIN this plant cycle to a friend.

LIST some other things that plants give to animals or provide for them.

How many different plants can you identify? Write their names down.

Take a close look at ferns and mosses. They keep the soil from eroding and have interesting structures. There are many different kinds here.

WRITING *Setting:* Look around and write a few notes to **DESCRIBE** the setting for your story. Will it take place in a small area or a large one? When in **TIME** does your story happen: present day, in the past or the future. What trees, rocks or hidden places will be in your story?

ART *Color:* Use your colored pencils to **DRAW/SHADE** as many colors of the rainbow as you can see. Some might be very small, use your hand lens to explore the details of small flowers or parts of plants that are hard to see like the bark of a tree.

PHOTO SCAVENGER HUNT As you walk along the path look for a Cedar tree that has two trunks.

SENSORY WORDS Before you move to the next SIGNPOST, **BE STILL**. Use your senses to absorb the “flavor” here. Write a word that describes a new:

Smell _____ Touch _____ Sound _____

Science topics: green plants, trees, animals/birds, soil/rocks, insects, decomposers, water, and air.

Writing topics (design a story): setting, characters, conflict, plot, tone, resolution.

Art topics: color, line, shape (2D), form, (3D), value, space, and texture.

HOW TO USE THIS BOOKLET

CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE: Science, Writing and Art.

A PHOTO SCAVENGER HUNT is included as well.

(Students will be provided a booklet, clipboard, pencil, colored pencils, and a hand lens. Please return materials except booklet at the end.)

As individuals or groups walk along the trail, students can work together or on their own in their explorations.

There are 8 Signposts, so spend about 15 min at each one.

Options:

- Do all three lessons at each Signpost briefly, together.
- Explore adventures in Science. Eight basic elements of an ecosystem are featured. Students will be asked to understand these elements in new ways.
- Have a Story Writing adventure. The six basic elements of a story are featured. Students will “build” a story using the environment as inspiration.
- Discover Art skills. Some basic elements of Art are explored using the environment as inspiration. Students could “Journal” their experience on the trail at each Signpost.
- Allow each student to select the Concepts they are most comfortable learning.
- Or assign Concepts to students who need more practice.

Post-Visit Activities:

- Science: use additional resources to learn more about the concepts presented, identify plants or flowers you photographed.
- Writing: spend time developing stories or poems with the gathered/inspired vocabulary.
- Art: expand on the concepts in other locations.