

Studying to be Stewards of Creation

5th grade "DISCOVERERS" curriculum is designed to reinforce science concepts learned at school through experiential education since studying the natural environment cannot always occur within the classroom setting. Students can increase their knowledge of the Creator and His handiwork through directly observing and exploring the outdoors.

The **Discoverers** curriculum focuses on using the senses to observe and understand the natural community and its various components.

Asking The Birds: Students examine the structural design of birds' feathers, beaks, and feet, and conclude by dissecting an owl pellet. These activities allow students to observe and understand the uniqueness and incredible design of the "birds of the air." CA Science Standards 2, 6a

Connecting With God's Community: This class provides an introduction to the outdoor school week by focusing on the natural world God has created. Developing a sense of community among students is the first step in relaying this concept. Various sensory and exploration activities allow the students to become aware of the diversity in the natural community, and recognize their role within it. CA Science Standards 2, 6

Creepy, Crawly Creatures: In this class, students are introduced to the largest class of living creatures – insects. Students discover the vital role of insects and their incredible diversity through careful observation and identification. Emphasis is placed on classification of insects and a structural comparison to other arthropods. CA Science Standards 6a

Lost and Found: Using teamwork and problem-solving skills, students serve as members of a search team to find a "missing person." They discuss reasons people become lost, develop skills to prevent a search and rescue situation, and learn ways to increase their chances of being rescued in an emergency. CA Science Standards 6

Nocturnal Games: This evening class utilizes the nighttime environment to help students develop an appreciation of the darkness. Rather than fearing the night, students are encouraged to enjoy this part of God's creation. This is accomplished by active games based on nocturnal animals and their behavior and design. CA Science Standards 6a

Tremendous Trees: Students develop an understanding of the role of producers in the community by carefully observing some of the local trees. They learn the role of each part and how it helps the plant survive and provide for the rest of the community. CA Science Standards 2a, 2e, 2f

Understanding Animals: God created many different kinds of animals, each specifically designed its habitat. Through exploring the camp community and observing a variety of consumers, the students can understand and appreciate the connection between structure and function in animals. Students also learn how to classify and explore the remarkable diversity of God's creatures, along with His purposes and provision His creation. CA Science Standards 2, 6a

Wet and Wild: The Cycle of Life: This class uses the water cycle to examine the importance of water for life in the community. Activities include a student performance of the water cycle and a thorough investigation of the diversity of life in a riparian environment. CA Science Standards 1g, 2a, 3b, 3c, 3d, 3e

Working Together For God: Using observation games, discussions and stories, students are challenged to apply their knowledge about the natural community to develop a sense of personal responsibility for taking care of God's creation. CA Science Standards 3

