

Osborn 5th Grade Field Days—2009 Schedule

One classroom at a time: Tuesday PM, Wednesday PM, and Thursday AM & PM
(9:00 – 11:15 AM & 12:00 – 2:15 PM)

Sessions begin with large group (full class) orientation inside the BBR Barn
Class is then split into 2-3 groups of students for inside & outside rotations

Field Day 1—January 20-22—Winter Weather in Washington

Inside

- Physical properties of water—especially snow
- Climate & weather in Washington—making climatograms of select “eastside” and “westside” cities

Outside

- Snow pits
- How much liquid water is in 1000 mL of snow?
- Winter safety and survival
- Weather monitoring (temperature and humidity in 3 locations)

Field Day 2—January 27-29—What’s Out There in Winter?

Inside

- Review of dichotomous keys (learned in 4th grade)—25 minutes
- Common mammals in Leavenworth and their scat and tracks—10 minutes
- What causes the seasons?
- **Mini-labs**
 - “What is a million? What is a billion?”
 - “Layers of the atmosphere”
 - “Gases in the atmosphere”

Outside

- 40 minute walk—in boots or snowshoes
 - ✓ key out evergreen trees and shrubs
 - ✓ look for signs of living animals
 - ✓ discover winter survival strategies & adaptations
 - ✓ observe river in winter
 - ✓ measure water temperature
- Weather monitoring

Field Day 3—February 3-5—Living and Nonliving Factors in Ecosystems

Inside

- Review use of digital cameras/practice taking pictures on “macro” setting
- Read “Amazing Plants and Animals”—Earth’s major land ecosystems (biomes)
 - deserts
 - grasslands
 - temperate forests
 - tropical rain forests
- Constructing food webs of shrub-steppe ecosystem in Washington

Outside

- Scavenger hunt on snowshoes with digital cameras
- Weather monitoring

Field Day 4—February 10-12—Investigating and Experiencing Ecosystems

Inside—Energy Flows and Matter Cycles

- Review food webs and discuss energy flow (forms and transfer)—slide presentation
- Carbon cycle lab with snail & elodea—identifying variables, predicting, observing, and writing a conclusion/summary

Outside—Navigation Tools

- Navigating with map, compass, and GPS hand-held unit
- Weather monitoring

Science Tools & Equipment Used at BBR for “5th Grade Winter Ecology”

- weather instruments (electronic & classical)
- maps
- hand-held Garmin GPS units
- compasses
- snowshoes
- digital cameras
- field guides & dichotomous keys
- electronic balances & other lab equipment