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A food web using MEEA's Missouri species coloring sheets. Using the sheets to engage interest, teachers can cover many of the LS1: From Molecules to Organisms standards in the early grades and almost all the LS2: Ecosystem standards in all the grades. Check out these and other MEEA resources for teachers below.

by: Jan Weaver

Research shows that using the environment to integrate teaching across subjects can increase student engagement, reduce challenging behavior, and improve scores on standardized tests. This goes for all subjects in all grades.

Teaching about the environment is not something to add to an already full schedule, it is something that ties all the pieces together in a way that makes sense for your students. It is authentic and practical. It provides for active learning. It is accessible on multiple levels. It thrives on communication and math skills, links to at least half the science standards and provides opportunities to explore regulations, government, history, economics and geography in real world contexts.

MEEA’s mission is to help you find the resources you need to pull things together using environmental education. Try one of the links below and see what EE can do for your teaching!

Lessons - Check out our lesson library covering seven environmental literacy standards. (We gather lessons so you don’t have to!) The section on Systems and Processes of Nature is organized to align with Missouri’s Learning Standards for Science (ecosystems, matter, energy, etc.). Along with the lessons, you can find links to curricula, books, games, videos, movies and stewardship activities.

Questions and Quizzes - Explore ten different environmentally related topics through questions and vocabulary leveled for early elementary, upper elementary, middle school and high school students. Students can test their knowledge of a topic before and after it is taught using an online quiz that randomly selects questions from a question bank for each topic.

Coloring Sheets - Featuring over 25 Missouri species, each sheet includes information on what a particular species eats and is eaten by (food webs!), what they are doing during each month of the year (life cycles!), and their range and habitat (biodiversity!). This page also hosts visual essays to stimulate discussion of challenging environmental topics like land use, meat eating and a person's environmental foot print. This is one of our most popular links!

Workshops - Every month we publish an updated list of workshops and other educational offerings throughout the state. You can find a Department of Conservation Discover Nature Workshop, a nature experience organized by the Department of Natural Resources in one of our great state parks, or programs provided by zoos, botanical gardens and professional societies.

Grants - Every month we publish an updated list of grants for field trips, gardening, curriculum development and more. Ranging from $100s to $1000s of dollars, there is bound to be something to help you get those seeds, or magnifying glasses, or video camera to help bring your students' learning to life.
Kudos to MEEA and MELAB Members!

- Kat Golden, sustainability education manager at the Missouri Botanical Garden Earthways Center in St. Louis, has been recognized as one of St. Louis Business Journal's 30 Under 30.
- Steve Schnarr, formerly program manager for Missouri River Relief, has been selected to succeed Jeff Barrow as Executive Director of MRR.

Did you get a promotion? Win an award? Receive a Grant? Let us know so we can share the news with your peers!

CALL for PRESENTERS! Deadline Aug 4

Missouri Green Schools and Environmental Education Conference
November 2-3, Columbia MO

Four Formats - Hands On, Bright Spots*, Table Talks and Posters

Three Strands - PreK-5 Curriculum, 6-12 Curriculum, Nuts and Bolts

*We are seeking youth as well as adult presenters for the 10 minute Bright Spots. If you work with a youth or a youth group 12 to 23 that carried out a project they identified and selected, we would love to hear about it.

Things to Look for (or Look Out for) in August

- Third Saturday - National Honeybee Day - http://www.nationalhoneybeeday.com
- 12 World Elephant Day (annually)- http://worldelephantday.org/about

Check out all the 2018 Green Holidays.

What to Look for Right Now - MDC's list of What's Out There in August!

MEEA News

- People Team
  - Memberships - Welcome to new members Brittany Tate-Beaugard, Megan Delany, Caitlin Horn, and Margaret McCoy. Thanks to Renewing Members Donna Coble, Ethan Duke, Nancy McClintock and Edward Williamson.
  - Networking - Jan submitted a proposal to Interface A: Plant Power and Interface B: Alternative Energy. She also submitted a proposal to the Association of Missouri Interpreters Workshop: Missouri Learning Standards. Jan’s proposal to the NAEE Conference was accepted: A Picture is Worth 1000 Words: Visual Literacy and EE. She is making plans to go to Spokane in October for the Affiliate Network workshop and to present.

- Purpose
  - Conference - We are looking for PRESENTERS! Check 2018 MOCSEE page for details and to submit a presentation proposal. DEADLINE AUGUST 4
  - Missouri Green Schools - Jan is working with the US Education Department to hold a Green Strides Tour October 24-25 in St. Louis.
  - Grants - MEEA is now accepting proposals for its Environmental Education Grants. Deadline November 5.

- Resources
  - Accounting - Q1 and Q2 financials sent to accountant for review
  - Fund Development - No Updates

- Governance Team
  - Board of Directors - Jan is working with the People, Purpose, Resources and Governance Teams to set up conference call meeting times.
  - Administration - No Updates

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Coming Up in the Next Two Months

- Grants, Contests and Awards Deadlines details here
  - Clark Fund (9/1); DNR Photo Contest (9/1); State Farm Good Neighbor Citizenship Grants (9/1 to 10/31);
  - MDC Community Conservation Grants (9/9); KEEN Effect Grant (9/30); Green Works Grant (9/30); Target
• Conferences and Meetings details here
  • September 11-14 - Association of Missouri Interpreters Annual Workshop: Cross the Streams: Bring Interpretation and Education Together to Accomplish Shared Goals, Echo Bluff State Park - http://www.mointerp.net/conference/
  • October 6-7 - Vaskebjorn 2018 Forest School Congress of the Midwest, featured speaker Richard Louv - http://www.raintreeschool.org/conference

• Workshops and Events around Missouri details here
  • Owl Prowl - August 18 - Trenton
  • Moth Night - August 4 - Troy
  • Rivers on the Move - August 18 - Kansas City
  • Bats and Caves - August 10 - Columbia
  • Nature Unleashed - August 8 - St. Louis
  • Monarchs Rule - August 25 - Springfield
  • Hummingbird Banding - August 4 - Leasburg
  • Nature Unleashed - August 29 - Cape Girardeau

(These count for Environmental Educator Certification categories 1, 2 or 3. Visit the EE Certification page here)

• Outdoor, Nature, Environmental and Sustainability Event Calendars - visit our page of organization and agency calendars - if you would like to have your organization’s regularly updated calendar added, email Executive Director Jan Weaver

EE Jobs details here

• Stream Team Assistant, MDC, Jefferson City
• Volunteer Naturalist, Columbia Bottom, St. Louis
• School Garden Americorps Vista, Gateway Greening, St. Louis
• Education Coordinator, EarthWays Center, St. Louis
• Interpretation Assistant, Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis
• MO Healthy Food Americorps, MO River Community Network, Columbia
• Emergency Response Team Member, Americorps, St. Louis