Upper Valley Linkages for Environmental Literacy (UVLEL)

**Lewis and Clark and My Backyard**

**Teacher name:** Annemarie Stout  
**Grade level:** Second grade  
**Goal:** Integrate Science, Social Studies, Reading, Writing, Art & Math  
   *Study, observe, classify, measure, and make models of local plants and animals in the community*

**Unit title:**  
- Exploring, observing, and journaling with Field investigations of plants, insects, and animals in your own neighborhood (community) in the spirit (style) of Lewis & Clark

**Essential questions addressed** (worded in student-friendly format)

- **Science**  
  - Identify local plants, animals, and insects  
  - Describe the life cycle of plants, animals, and insects and compare them
- **Social Studies:**  
  - *How have specific events influenced societies?*  
  - *What is life like for ordinary people in various societies?*  
  - *How do people interact with their environment?*  
  - *What are the physical characteristics of a place?*  
    (Use and making of maps, globes, and atlases)

**Key GEs/GSEs you’ll assess** (include both content and process learning targets)

- **LS1**– All living organisms have identifiable structures and characteristics that allow for survival (organisms, populations, & species).
- **S:SPS2:2:1.1** Recognize that information can be obtained merely by careful observation, but sometimes even more data can be collected by conducting scientific investigations.
- **S:SPS2:2:1.2** Discover that when a scientific investigation is done the way it was done before, we expect to get a very similar result.
- **S.- Social Studies:** II. WESTWARD EXPANSION A. Pioneers head west
**Length of Unit** (days/periods)
Once Weekly for 8 weeks (one school year quarter)
One full day culminating event

**Activities to support learning targets**

**Lesson 1:**
- Basic nature journal lesson, page set up (date, time, place, sketch, labels)
- *Keeping A Nature Journal* by Clare Walker Leslie
- Indoor sketching practice
- Discuss future outdoor sketch lessons, expectations, safety, etc.

**Lesson 2:**
- Basic “Special Spot” outdoor lesson. Find an easy spot to go to on a weekly basis, to keep “track” of over time. Do a quick sketch and a quick write about this spot. (Ex: apple tree in field, area of “wild flowers” on the edge of the school yard, etc.)

**Lesson 3:**
- Make weekly “Special Spot” observations and sketches. Work on adding in weather observations. Be sure to note date, time, weather conditions, and label sketch.
- “Color Wheel of Seasons” from *The Nature Connection an Outdoor Workbook* by Clare Leslie

**Lesson 4:**
- Keep track of each plant, animal, insect, that each child observes. Make a list. Have students take photos. Combine information for a future computerized “field guide.”

**Lesson 5:**
- Continue “Special Spot” nature journaling and observations of local animals, insects, and weather.
- Send a notice home for families to keep track of their backyard and ask them to email in photos and observations.
- (Continue to work on ideas and timing of developing the Lewis & Clark type Field Guide during lessons 5 - 8, and work on a computer version and print version.)

**Lesson 6:**
- Pg. 12 Latitude & longitude (*Lewis & Clark for Kids*)
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**Lesson 7:**
- Pg. 17 - Pressing Plants, p 34.
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VLEL unit roadmap

Friday, September 28, 2018/14/2011 8:16:00 PM
Lesson 8:
  - Culminating Nature Day:
    - Storrs Hill, (or local town outdoor natural area)- work on mapping and orienteering mini-project, use compasses, observe water cycle, stream, weather changes over time, (in future years go once each season), observe animal tracks, observe plants, animals, & insects, use field guides, poetry share, journal share, using magnifying glasses, catching insects for bug boxes (and release), fill in Entomologist Guide (insect study book, habitat observations) etc.
    
    - (If time allows, ideally would go to the town “nature area” once each season (3 or 4 times in the school year) to compare changes of weather, plants, animals, and insects)
    
    - Six stations:
      - Forest – habitat, observations, measure circumference of stumps, etc.
      - 2 water stations- brook- observations, rocks, insects, sounds
      - 2 field stations- one nature journaling, one insect collection
      - Artifact museum
        - Share nature journals
        - Share specimens collected throughout the season

Materials:
- Journals
- Pencils, sharpeners, white erasers
- Colored pencils
- Field Guides
- Magnifying glasses
- Bug boxes
- Various Lewis & Clark text and National Geographic Lewis & Clark: Great Journey West DVD

Supporting resources (websites, book titles, videos, human resources, etc.)
- http://planning.lebnh.net/home/documents/nri
- http://www.recreation.lebnh.net/
- Last Child in the Woods
- Keeping a Nature Journal by Clare Leslie Walker
- The Nature Connection by Clare Leslie Walker
- Lewis & Clark Their Journey of Discovery with 21 Activities by Janis Herbert
- Naturally Curious by Mary Holland
• *Local naturalists:* Susan Sawyer, Mary Holland, or others
• Peterson Field guides
• Mammal Tracks Life Size Tracking Guide
• Lebanon Conservation Commission - and nature friends- Tracy, Nicole Cormen, Judy MacNab, Steve
• **CONSERVATION COMMISSION REP.**
  ○ Judy MacNab, 3 Pearl Street, West Lebanon, NH 03784 (603) 298-5675
  [Judy.Macnab@valley.net](mailto:Judy.Macnab@valley.net)

**Assessments of learning**

• Oral Discussion
• Nature Journal
• Nature Writing- prose, narrative, poetry
• Comprehension Sheets
• Growth in
  ▪ Observational Skills
  ▪ Scientific Writing
  ▪ Scientific Sketching
• Field Guide (product of community- or schoolyard)
  ○ Individual Student Field Guide
  ○ Class Field Guide- computer version – Interactive Map and Field Guide

**Additional Possible Projects:**

▪ **combine** “Life Cycle Galore” project, nature journals, work life cycles, weather, seasonal changes, Westward Expansion “Lewis & Clark and My Backyard” into a weekly lesson throughout the entire year
▪ **Tipi** - p. 50 *Lewis & Clark for Kids* (tracking ???)
• **Poetry**
  ○ Haiku
  ○ Diamante
  ○ Windspark
  ○ Riddle
• **Writings Based on various titles:**
  ▪ The Diary of ________________________ (worm)
  ▪ How to Make An Apple Pie and See the World
  ▪ Travels of a Water Drop
• **Specimen box** - illustration, photo, description, poem, story, pressed leaves
• **Interactive Field Guide** of local plants, animals insects- interactive maps, etc.