

# 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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- **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.