

Illinois State Museum – MuseumLink Forest Forest Activity: Forest Layers (Grades 1-6)

Objective: After viewing teacher-bookmarked pages of the Museumlink Forest Module , including the landscape paintings, and discussing the names and functions of the forest layers found in these images, students will be able to draw or paint a landscape of a forest type containing these layers and be able to identify and describe these layers.



Grade Levels: 1-6

Time Required: 90 minute period

Museumlink Web Sites:

Forest, Present Day and Recent

<http://www.museum.state.il.us/muslink/forest/htmls/pr.html>

Materials:

sketch paper (approx. 5.5 by 8.5 inches)

painting paper (12 by 18 inches)

pencils

medium for final work: crayon, oil pastel, or tempera or watercolor paint, water, brushes

Procedure:

Using as an example the illustration of forest layers the photograph on the forest layers page of *Museumlink Forest* and landscape paintings, students will make a landscape drawing or painting that includes in its content layers of the forest. They could sketch outside on a field trip to a forest, or use the Web site photos or other images they secure:

- make a sketch of the forest parts they are going to draw or paint, making alterations and changes on the sketch paper before transferring final version to final paper.
- transfer their sketch onto final paper the tree shapes (canopies and trunks) first, then the shrubs, the ground covers and litter. Include animals that live in this habitat from information they learned from other sources in class, choosing the placement according to the animals' correct habitats.

Assessment: Students should be able to identify and describe each layer, what kinds of plants make up each layer, functions of each layer, and how the animals use the forest layers to survive.

Illinois Goals and Standards addressed:

Science

Goal 12.B: Know and apply concepts that describe how living things interact with each other and with their environment.

Early Elementary:

12.B.1a: Describe and compare characteristics of living things in relationship to their environments.

12.B.1b: Describe how living things depend on one another for survival.

Late Elementary: 12.B.2a: Describe relationships among various organisms in their environments.

Fine Arts: Visual Arts

Goal 27.B: Understand how the arts shape and reflect history, society, and everyday life.

Early Elementary: 27.B.1: Know how images...convey stories about people, places, and times.