

A Case of Garlic Mustard Curricular Connections



Grade Level: 7

Content Area: Science and Environmental Education.

Key Learning Goals:

- Learn to identify invasive species that have been identified as a problem at the school forest.
- Learn invasive species removal skills.
- Students study the Madison School Forest, a local ecosystem; learn about one of its issues/problems.
- Students use data to help answer student developed questions.

Teacher Questions:

- How do we study population size and change over time?
- What is the difference between native species, exotic species and invasive species?
- How do we control invasive species?
- How do invasive species populations replace native species populations?
- What effects will invasive species removal have on native plant populations over time?
- How can we decrease populations of invasive species at the Madison School Forest?

Hypothesis:

If we survey, identify, monitor and remove invasive species from certain areas in the school forest, those populations of invasive species will decrease over time.

Primary Classroom Connections:

FOSS Populations and Ecosystems. Use this lesson to:

- Supplement student understanding by focusing on techniques used to study population size and change
- Expand exposure to various ecosystems such as the school forest which is a rich and interesting “Ecoscenario” with its own environmental management issues, problems and possible solutions.
- Examine adaptations that allow invasive populations to out compete some native populations.

Standards Addressed:

Science: C.8.8, F.8.10, G.8.5

Environmental Education: B.8.5, C.8.2, C.8.3, D.8.5, D.8.6

Additional Extensions:

- EEK! Website (Environmental Education for Kids) of the Wisconsin DNR (Teacher Pages, Alien Invaders, Alien Profile: Garlic Mustard)
<http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/caer/ce/EEK/veg/plants/garlicmustard.htm>
- The Nature Conservancy: Global Invasive Species Initiative website
<http://tncweeds.ucdavis.edu>