

Lesson Plan: Exploring North Carolina's Habitats

Grade Level: K-3 ESL Students

Duration: 45-60 minutes

Objective/Students will:

- Learn about different habitats in North Carolina.
- Identify animals and plants found in each habitat.
- Practice English vocabulary related to nature and geography.
- Engage in storytelling and comprehension activities.

Materials:

- Plott's Tales and Trails (book)
- Pictures or flashcards of NC habitats, animals, and plants
- Chart paper and markers
- Sentence strips with key vocabulary
- Coloring sheets with animals from the book
- A simple interactive map of North Carolina

Lesson Procedure:

1. Warm-Up (10 minutes)

- Show a map of North Carolina. Ask students if they have visited different places in the state.
- Display images of mountains, forests, wetlands, and beaches.
- Introduce Carolina, the book's character, and ask: "Where do you think she will go?"

2. Read-Aloud & Discussion (15-20 minutes)

- Read Plott's Tales and Trails: Aventuras Con Carolina, stopping to highlight key vocabulary (habitat, forest, mountain, ocean, animals, plants).
- Use gestures, props, and bilingual support for comprehension.
- Ask simple comprehension questions:
 - "Where is Carolina now?"
 - "What animals does she see?"
 - "What sounds might she hear?"

3. Interactive Activity (15 minutes)

- Sorting Game: Give students picture cards of animals and plants. Have them place each in the correct habitat category.

- Movement Activity: Call out a habitat, and students act like an animal from that habitat (e.g., hop like a rabbit for the forest, swim like a fish for the ocean).

4. Creative Expression (10 minutes)

- Students draw and label their favorite habitat from the book.
- Older students can complete the sentence: “I want to visit the _____ because _____.”

5. Wrap-Up & Reflection (5 minutes)

- Review habitats and animals.
- Ask students, “Which habitat do you like the most?”
- Sing a short song about animals or nature to reinforce vocabulary.

North Carolina Science Standards

Kindergarten:

- **K.L.1:** Compare characteristics of animals that make them alike and different from others.
- **K.E.1:** Understand change and observable patterns of weather.

First Grade:

- **1.L.1:** Recognize that plants and animals need air, water, light, and food to survive.
- **1.L.2:** Summarize the basic needs of living organisms for energy and growth.

Second Grade:

- **2.L.1:** Understand animal life cycles and how they adapt to survive in different habitats.
- **2.L.2:** Summarize the life cycle of plants and their needs for survival.

Third Grade:

- **3.L.2:** Understand how plants adapt to their environments.
- **3.L.3:** Recognize that plants and animals depend on one another within a habitat.

North Carolina English Language Arts (ELA) Standards

Kindergarten:

- **RL.K.1:** With prompting and support, ask and answer questions about key details in a text.
- **SL.K.2:** Confirm understanding of spoken words by asking and answering questions.

First Grade:

- **RL.1.1:** Ask and answer questions about key details in a text.
- **W.1.2:** Write informative/explanatory texts about a topic.

Second Grade:

- **RL.2.1:** Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text.
- **SL.2.2:** Recount key details from a read-aloud or text presented orally.

Third Grade:

- **RL.3.1:** Ask and answer questions about the text, referring explicitly to the text for answers.
- **W.3.2:** Write informative/explanatory texts with facts, definitions, and details.

WIDA English Language Development (ELD) Standards

These ESL standards apply across all grade levels:

1. **ELD Standard 1:** English learners communicate for social and instructional purposes within the school setting.
2. **ELD Standard 2:** English learners communicate information, ideas, and concepts necessary for academic success in language arts.
3. **ELD Standard 4:** English learners communicate information, ideas, and concepts necessary for academic success in science.