

Virginia Wildlife Calendar Activities for the Classroom

Virginia Wildlife calendars are more than just pretty pictures for your classroom. There are many activities that will support the Virginia Standards of Learning. Below are just a few ideas to get you started:

Science/Math:

- ★ Calendar pictures can be used for food chains, habitat, adaptations and ecosystem studies.
- ★ Graph the sunrise and / or sunset times for one month. What do you observe? Is there a pattern? Choose the months of March, June, September and/or December when the season's change. Does the time on the calendar correspond with what the students actually observe each day? The time of day would be on the Y axis and the date on the X axis.
- ★ Create a bar graph of the number of "*Best, Good, Fair and Poor*" fishing days. This rating was based on several factors including the phase of the moon, tides, average temperatures, historical information etc. Can the students find a pattern? There may not be a noticeable pattern since many variables are included in the development of the charts. How many "poor" fishing days occur on weekends?
- ★ At the back of the calendar there is a Virginia Tide Chart. Tides are affected by the phases of the moon. Use the chart to determine the tides in your area. Tides only occur east of the *Fall Line* in Virginia. In general, the Fall Line follows Interstate 95. Which Virginia cities are on the Fall Line?
- ★ Extend the habitat around each species by placing it in the center of the bulletin board and drawing the rest of the scene the photographer didn't capture. Be sure to add seasonal characteristics to the drawing.

Social Studies / Language Arts:

- ★ Which physiographic region of Virginia can each species be found in? Are any species confined to one region of Virginia? Why would a species only be found in the coastal areas or in the mountain region? Range maps for individual species may be found at the website www.dgif.virginia.gov/wildlife/
- ★ Choose a species and write a poem about it.
- ★ Write a descriptive paragraph about what the animal is doing in the photo.
- ★ Hand out the pictures and create a verbal story, each student introduces their animal into the story when it is their turn. Photos may be passed around as a species reenters the story or additional wildlife species may be cut from *Virginia Wildlife* magazine.

Other:

- ★ In art, students can draw each species, tear them into smaller pieces to make interesting collages, or create fanciful new species.
- ★ Cut the pictures into puzzle pieces.
- ★ Create a mural and place each species in its proper habitat.
- ★ On newer calendars (2014 on) there are smaller pictures of each month's species, cut these out as cards and create sets.

Hint: photocopy the information about the species and then paste it over the information provided for another species on the back of the photo before laminating.

Additional wildlife activities can be found in Project WILD.

Math Activities using Virginia wildlife research data can be found at www.dgif.virginia.gov/education .

For more information about the Department's

Pre K-12 wildlife educational programs contact suzie.gilley@dgif.virginia.gov .