



GRADE 3 (RECOMMENDED)

Wildlife in the City!

The third grade language arts curriculum for Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools includes a reading unit exploring the theme of City Wildlife, animals and plants that have adapted to life in an urban habitat. This theme is used because factual material about this topic is easy for students to find, and familiar animals and environments naturally arouse curiosity and questions. To explore this theme, students read fictional and non-fictional books on the topic and complete a research project. Through their research, students become more aware of urban wildlife, become more familiar with the animals that live near their home and school, and explore the problems and rewards of sharing our habitat with wildlife. Research questions posed by students have the potential to connect to the fields of biology, sociology, and economics.

Wing Haven has developed materials for a third-grade level field trip, corresponding to the goals of the City Wildlife reading unit. The visit to Wing Haven is a multi-disciplinary experience that meets objectives and competencies from several North Carolina Standard Course of Study curriculum areas. This field trip includes a story reading, wildlife observation in the garden with the use of a journal as a guide, and a wrap-up discussion at the conclusion of the visit.

Although the inspiration for a third-grade level field trip is the City Wildlife language arts unit, the garden visit and journal activities combine to form a multi-disciplinary experience which meets objectives and competencies from several North Carolina Standard Course of Study curriculum areas, including language and visual arts, social studies, and science. Thus, the field trip is appropriate for any third grade class wishing to visit Wing Haven, whether or not they are currently involved in the reading unit. Relevant learning objectives from the North Carolina Standard Course of Study are listed below.

COST & MATERIALS

Wing Haven will provide journals—you will be charged **\$5.00 per student** to cover the cost of the materials. Each student should bring a pencil.

SOCIAL STUDIES

1. Characterize qualities of good citizenship by identifying people who made a difference in the community and other social environments.
 - 1.01 Identify and demonstrate characteristics of responsible citizenship and explain how citizen participation can impact changes within a community.
 - 1.02 Recognize diverse local, state, and national leaders, past and present, who demonstrate responsible citizenship.
3. Examine how individuals can initiate change in families, neighborhoods, and communities.
7. Analyze the role of real and fictional heroes in shaping the culture of communities.
 - 7.01 Identify the deeds of local and global leaders.

SCIENCE

- 1.01 Observe and measure how the quantities and qualities of nutrients, light, and water in the environment affect plant growth.



- 1.02 Observe and describe how environmental conditions determine how well plants survive and grow in a particular environment.
- 1.05 Observe and discuss how bees pollinate flowers.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

- 2.03 Read a variety of texts, including...nonfiction (...letters...), ...poetry.
- 2.04 Identify and interpret elements of fiction and nonfiction and support by referencing the text to determine the...author's purpose...lesson and /or message,...cause and effect, fact and opinion, point of view.
- 2.05 Draw conclusions, make generalizations, and gather support by referencing the text.
- 3.01 Respond to fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and drama using interpretive, critical, and evaluative processes by: ...considering main character's point of view, ...making inferences and drawing conclusions about characters and events, reflecting on learning, gaining new insights, and identifying areas for further study.
- 4.02 Use oral and written language to...answer open-ended questions.
- 4.04 Use planning strategies to generate topics and to organize ideas (e.g., drawing, mapping, discussing, listing).
- 4.07 Compose a variety of fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and drama selections using self-selected topics and forms (e.g., poems, simple narratives, short reports, leaning logs, letters, notes, directions, instructions).
- 4.09 Produce work that follows the conventions of particular genres (e.g., personal narrative, short report, friendly letter, directions and instructions).

GARDEN VISIT

Orientation. The tour guides will invite the children into the Clarkson home where they will receive an introduction to Wing Haven—a brief history of the garden and how it's a habitat for birds and small mammals. The guide will then read Elizabeth's Wish, a book centered around Sammy the Squirrel, a favorite garden visitor who adapted quite nicely to life at Wing Haven. This full-color book is written at the third-grade level and is a creative and entertaining introduction to wildlife in the city. With squirrels as the main example of city wildlife, the program's "stars" are readily visible in the garden at all times of year and also readily seen and recognized by students around their own homes and schools. Upon conclusion of the story, we'll present the students with their journals and divide the class into small groups.

Garden Study. While at Wing Haven students have the opportunity to spend time in several locations in the garden, and the journal encourages students to focus on the animals in the garden. There is also space in the journal for drawings and follow-up activities as students are prompted to make notes about wildlife that they observe at their own homes.