

Project FOCUS
Best Lessons
THIRD GRADE

Title of Lesson: Adaptation in Different Environments

Theme: Ecology

Unit Number: [Click here to enter text.](#)

Unit Title: Habitats in GA

Performance Standard(s) Covered (enter code):

S3L1

[Click here to enter text.](#)

Enduring Standards (objectives of activity):

Habits of Mind

yes **Asks questions**

Uses numbers to quantify

yes **Works in a group**

Uses tools to measure and view

yes **Looks at how parts of things are needed**

Describes and compares using physical attributes

yes **Observes using senses**

yes **Draws and describes observations**

Content (key terms and topics covered):

Adaptations, camouflage, survival, colors, environment, surroundings

Learning Activity (description in steps)

Abstract (limit 100 characters): Students will learn how adapting to the surrounding results in better chance of survival

Details: Split the students up into three groups. Prepare three plates, one containing grass, one containing sand and the other containing dirt or potting soil. Place about 10 of each colored lentils into each plate. Give one plate to each group. Tell the groups that they have 1 minute to pick out as many lentils as they can. After the minute, ask them to count the number of lentils they picked out based on color. They should be able to see that the green lentils were picked out less in the grass, the tan lentils were picked out the least in the sand, and all were picked almost equally in the dirt. Ask them to make observations in their journals. Discuss how in real environment, the ability to adapt to their surroundings help them survive by not getting picked.

Note: My students are in second grade but I did my presentation with FOCUS students who teach third grade. I did not actually conduct this lesson with my class, therefore I cannot really talk about modifications to the lesson in order to do it again.

Materials Needed (type and quantity): Plastic plates (3), Dirt or potting soil, sand, grass, red kidney beans, green split peas, tan lentils. Cleaning supplies in case spills.

Notes and Tips (general changes, alternative methods, cautions): Make sure the kids clean up after the activity and not leave lentils lying around the classroom.

Sources/References:

- 1) Originally submitted by Becky Rahn, edited by Jessica Valle (2010)
- 2) [Click here to enter text.](#)
- 3) [Click here to enter text.](#)