

For your safety, please stay on the trails as you explore, wear weather-appropriate attire and have plenty of water. Coppell Nature Park is home to many WILD plants and animals. Be respectful of the environment and do not litter. Feel free to observe, but avoid disturbing, destroying, or removing what you find. Unlike domestic pets, wild animals generally avoid interaction with humans. Increase your chance of observing wild animals by remaining calm and quiet.

### **A WALK IN THE WOODS • ALL AGES**

Enjoy a leisurely walk through the trails of Coppell Nature Park. Nature is always changing and presenting new opportunities for discovery. Trained guides will point out features and answer student inquiries.

### **CNP HABITATS • ALL AGES**

After reviewing the basic components of habitat (air, water, food, shelter, space), learners look for various examples among the ecosystems of Coppell Nature Park (forest, riparian, prairie). Younger learners look for habitat components. More advanced learners observe the distinguishing characteristics of various ecosystems and the interactions among living and non-living things.

### **SCAVENGER HUNTS • ALL AGES**

Learners use their five senses to observe specific items found in nature as they explore the trails of Coppell Nature Park. Theme may be customized if used in combination with a lesson.

### **PLANTS • ALL AGES**

Learners explore the trails of Coppell Nature Park while making specific observations, depending on grade level. Younger learners look for leaves and identify their shape. Mid-level learners classify trees by observing size, shape, leaf, bark and flower/fruit characteristics. Advanced learners focus on the various ways plants adapt to and interact with their environment. Hike may be used in combination with Plants lesson.

### **INSECTS & SPIDERS • ALL AGES**

Learners explore the trails of Coppell Nature Park while making specific observations, depending on grade level. Younger learners discover different types of insects/spiders. Mid-level learners observe indirect evidence of insects/spiders such as webs, molts, eggs or leaf chews. More advanced learners consider ways in which insects/spiders interact with their environment such as in food webs, habitat structures, reproduction and decomposition. Hike may be used in combination with Insects or Spiders lesson.

### **BIRDS • 2ND GRADE & OLDER**

Learners use binoculars to look for birds in their natural habitat and field guides to practice identification skills. May be used in combination with bird lessons.

### **MAMMALS • 2ND GRADE & OLDER**

Learners explore the trails of Coppell Nature Park while making specific observations, depending on grade level. Younger learners look for indirect evidence of mammals such as tracks, scat, and homes. More advanced learners observe the various ways mammals adapt and interact with their environment. Hike may be used in combination with Mammal Investigation lesson.

### **COTTONWOOD CREEK • ALL AGES**

Learners explore the unique features of a local riparian habitat. Younger learners explore the living and non-living factors in this environment. Mid-level learners observe the interactions between aquatic and semi-aquatic organisms, the water cycle, natural springs, erosion, and water quality. More advanced learners focus on the concepts of watershed and sources of pollution, and how these may affect immediate and surrounding ecosystems. Hike may be used in combination with water lessons.

### **GEOLOGIC HISTORY OF COPPELL NATURE PARK • 2ND GRADE & OLDER**

Learners explore indirect evidence to imagine what the local environment was like during the Cretaceous period (~100 million years ago). Younger learners observe a mural, then walk to Cottonwood Creek to look for fossils. More advanced learners explore the concept of geologic time scale as measured by geologic strata and index fossils.

### **GEOLOGY • ALL AGES**

Learners explore the trails of Coppell Nature Park while making specific observations, depending on grade level. Younger learners may use sieves to sort and classify soil particles. More advanced learners observe geologic processes such as weathering, erosion, groundwater, runoff and permeability. Hike may be used in combination with Geology lessons.

### **CITIZEN SCIENCE • ALL AGES**

Learners use the iNaturalist application on their personal mobile device to collect and report organisms found in Coppell Nature Park.

### **ART IN NATURE • ALL AGES**

Learners bring writing journals and/or sketch pads with them to explore the trails of Coppell Nature Park. The group may stop in one or more designated areas to reflect on inspiration from nature. Younger learners may use the five senses to explore colors, textures, patterns and sounds. Advanced learners experiment with poetry and/or drawing.

### **BEC IS GREEN • 3RD GRADE & OLDER**

Enjoy a guided tour of the Biodiversity Education Center to learn about the green construction features of the building. Get an up-close look at materials and apply these principles to your own home, schools, or places of business!



**BIODIVERSITY EDUCATION CENTER**  
**367 S. Freeport Pkwy. • Coppell, TX**  
 All classes held at the Biodiversity Education Center

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