Ecosystems in Florida: Swamps Workshop

Subjects: Science

Music

Language Arts

Grade: 2nd through 5th

Number of Students: 20-30

**Standards:**

**Science Standards**

**Life Science**

* SC.3.L.15.1 Students will actively listen and contribute to a discussion about what makes reptiles unique from other animals.
* SC.4.L.17.4 Students will experience and observe a live alligator and video presentations to understand how these animals interact with and depend upon their environment and the other animals in it.
* Supports SC.35.CS-CS.1.1 Students will understand and be able to use science vocabulary including swamp, ecosystem, predator, and prey

**Music Standards**

* MU.2.F.1.1 Students will create a musical performance inspired by their knowledge on alligators and the swamp ecosystem.
* MU.4.S.1.2 Students will use their voices and instruments to create melodic patterns

**Language Arts Standards**

**Writing**

* LAFS.3.W.2.4 With guidance, students will write down their favorite pieces of information from the video and hands-on experiences from the rest of the workshop.

**Objectives:**

1. Students will be able to identify and distinguish reptiles from other animals.
2. Students will be able to actively participate in a discussion about reptiles and the swamp ecosystem in Florida.
3. Students will observe a live alligator with respect and interest.
4. Students will remember and communicate their favorite facts of the workshop through writing.
5. Students will contribute ideas for a group-written song and participate in singing it.

**Materials:**

1. A projector with a computer that has internet access
   1. Slide show and video presentation
2. Ukulele
3. Computer paper and writing utensils for students

**Introduction:**

To immediately engage students in the concept of the swamp ecosystem and the animals that live there by introducing them to the topic. This will be followed by asking them about their opinions on music and songwriting and introducing the concept of combining music with science.

**Activities:**

1. Explain the importance of warming up your body and voice as a musician. Lead fun warm-ups such as “No Bananas” and “Animal (Cockroach) Song”
2. Define vocabulary words: Swamp, ecosystem, predator, and prey. Encourage students to follow along in hand motions to remember the vocabulary. Begin a short discussion, allowing students to share their experiences about the swamp ecosystems.
3. Discuss reptiles and their unique characteristics.
4. Introduce an animal perfectly adapted for the swamp environment, the alligator, through a short video presentation.
5. Present a live baby alligator and lead a discussion about how alligators are predators in the swamp ecosystem. Allow students to touch the alligator with careful guidance.
6. Ask students to write their top three favorite pieces of information they learned so far through the workshop.
7. Show students part of a short original song inspired by an animal species.
8. Create a melody with students using their voices and the ukulele, inspired by their favorite pieces of information.

**Closing:**

Encourage students to continue learning and tune in to hear their finished song on YouTube.