Mountain Ecosystems Lesson Plan

Objectives: By the end of this lesson the students will be able to explain how mountain ecosystems are formed on our planet. Students will be able to draw the differences between volcanic mountains, dome mountains, and fault block mountains. Students will be able to explain how the Earths surface is made up of tectonic plates. Students will able to explain what occurs on a mountain as you continue to climb higher. Students will be able to write down specific adaptations animals that live on mountains have.

Grades: K-8 (With Adaptions for High School Students)

Materials:

1. Paper and Markers or Crayons
2. Mountain Demo Sheets
3. Animals from the Mountains Unit list.

Introduction:

The educator will ask the students to tell them how tall the highest mountain on our planet is. The educator will then talk to the students about the height qualifications for being considered a mountain and talk about some of the highest mountains on our planet today. Then they will ask the student different types of mountains they may be familiar with.

Lesson:

Now the educator will talk with students about what tectonic plates are and how they cover the earths surface. The educator will then draw on the board examples of how three different types of mountains are formed by these plates, include volcanic mountain, dome mountains, and fault block mountains. After the educator the will explain the changes that occur in the atmosphere of a mountain as you continue to go higher up the mountain. Then the educator will talk about how animals that live on mountains have to have similar ways of surving including being a good climber, finding shelter from the weather, and being able to live with less oxygen. Last the educator will bring out the animals form the mountains unit and talk about the ways they survive in their particular mountain ranges and purposes they serve in the mountains.

Wrap Up:

Ask the students think about what will happen to our highest mountain on the planet as time goes on? Explain the process of erosion that weather has on a mountain over time.