Taiga Ecosystems Lesson Plan

Objectives: By the end of this lesson the students will be able to write down the ecological factors that make up a taiga, including temperature fluctuation, annual precipitation, types of vegetation found in a taiga and biodiversity. The students will be able to describe the types of adaptations animals are equipped with for life in a taiga. Students will be able recite the role that taigas play for the planet. Students will be able to state the location of Taigas on the planet.

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

Materials:

1. Pine Cones and Pine Needles
2. Taiga Brown storming Sheet
3. Pens or Pencils
4. Animals from the Taiga Unit list.

Introduction:

The educator will give the students the taiga brainstorming sheet. Explain that taigas are ecosystems found between temperate forests and tundras. Then ask the students to write down some words that would describe what a taiga looks like. Go over their thoughts on the brain storm sheet.

Lesson:

The educator will introduce the students to what a Taiga ecosystem is. Talk about the major ecological factors that make a taiga. Include annual precipitation, cold temperatures, and plant life specifically confers and pine tree. Discuss where taigas are found on the planet. Talk about the role taigas play in lumber production for humans and oxygen production as well. Then discuss how animals that live in taigas have to have specific adaptations as well to survive year round there. Then the educator will bring out the pine cones and pine needles and talk about why pine trees make up the majority of plants in taiga. Last the educator will then bring out the animals from the taiga unit and talk about how each one built for life in a taiga and the role they play.in the ecosystem.

Wrap Up:

The educator talk to the students about the process of logging and how it is affecting taigas across the planet.