

LESSON: Making Connections**Grade Level:** First Grade**OBJECTIVES:**

Children will:

- Learn about connections among creatures in their own backyard
- Understand the what plants and animals need
- Know how plants and animals interact with each other and the environment
- Be able to talk about their connection with nature
- Begin to understand their part in caring for the environment

MATERIALS:

- Paper
- Markers

PRESENTATION:

Tell students that you are going outdoors to see what connections you can find. You probably can find some in the schoolyard, the local park or your own backyard. Talk about connections like—

- A bird eating berries and then migrating to South America for the winter or Alaska for the summer
- A squirrel gathering acorns and burying them in the woods nearby

These creatures depend on the berries and acorns in your backyard, but provide a connection between your neighborhood and the wide world.

DIRECTIONS:

Take your class outdoors—anywhere. Stop and look. Ask them what connections they can find. Take a short walk around the building or neighborhood. Encourage brief conversations about the connections the kids see.

Go back to the classroom and ask the kids to draw two concentric circles, a small one inside one that fills up most of the page. The one that fills up the page represents the whole world. In the small circle, draw something you saw in the schoolyard or park.

Draw rays out from the middle circle, and draw circles with things that are connected to what you put in the small circle (If the squirrel is in the middle circle, the acorns will be on a branch coming out from there. Another branch might have leaves that the squirrel uses to make a nest).

PROCESSING THROUGH THE SIX PILLARS:**TIME:**

30 minutes