



North Carolina Curriculum Standards for State Parks Field Trips

Each lesson listed on the North Carolina State Parks Field Trips web site is correlated to the North Carolina Essential Standards curriculum for one or more grade levels. Programs offered at state parks can be applied to a wide range of grades and ages. Since the Essential Standards focus on different aspects of scientific study for each grade, park rangers often work with teachers to focus even more attention on the curriculum.

This document is a guide for some of the best correlations between a state park field trip and the Essential Standards: The complete Essential Standards can be found here: <https://www.dpi.nc.gov/teach-nc/curriculum-instruction/standard-course-study/science>

Kindergarten

- **Ways animals move through and interact with their environment (K.P.1)**
- **Natural objects observable properties (weight, color, shape, texture, etc. (K.P.2)**
- **Characteristics of living things compared to non-living things (K.L.1)**
- **Interaction between humans and environment; natural resources, pollution, etc. (K.G.2.SS)**
- **Changing weather patterns from day to day and throughout the year (K.E.1)**

1st Grade

- **Animal adaptations (1.L.1)**
- **Needs of organisms for survival (1.L.2)**
- **Interaction between humans and environment; natural resources, pollution, etc. (1.G.2.SS)**
- **Physical properties of Earth's materials (1.E.2)**

2nd Grade

- **Animal life cycles: particularly those in which the immature stage of an organism is different than the adult stage (2.L.1, 2.L.2)**
- **Interaction between humans and environment; natural resources, pollution, etc. (2.G.2.SS)**
- **Observable weather patterns and changes during the day and year (2.E.1)**



3rd Grade

- Characteristics and life cycle of plants (3.L.2)
- Use maps, field guides, or photographs to convey information (Literacy.RI.3.7)
- Observable patterns of earth-moon-sun system during the day and year (3.E.1)
- Use models or diagrams to compare Earth's land and water features (3.E.2)

4th Grade

- How do changing habitats effect animal survival and how do animals adapt to changes; Changes can be human-caused or natural (4.L.1)
- The importance of the place name or location to North Carolina (4.H.2.SS)
- Effect of the local environment on NC's growth (4.G.1.SS)
- The culture of local Native Americans (4.C.1.SS)
- Fossils and any other geological evidence of change (4.E.2)
- Compare mineral properties and composition of igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic rocks (4.P.2)

5th Grade

- How specific animal structures help specific species adapt to this environment (5.L.1)
- Interdependency of animals and plants (5.L.2)
- Animal life cycles: specifically, why young animals are similar to or different from their parents (5.L.3)
- Human activity and how it has shaped the region (5.G.1)
- Use local daily and seasonal weather changes for prediction; effects of global patterns (5.E.1)
- Erosion is affected by gravity and friction (5.P.1)
- Heating and cooling of natural objects (5.P.3)

6th Grade

- Structures, processes, and behaviors of plants (6.L.1)
- Food webs, flow of energy, and responses of organisms to changes in the environment; changes can be manmade or natural (6.L.2)
- Earth-moon-sun system are the reason for the seasons and tides (6.E.1)
- Physical environment and how it affects local societies, ancient to modern (6.E.1)
- Changes to the Earth's surface over time and how those occur (6.E.2)



7th Grade

- Variation among individuals in a population and how that helps them survive (7.L.1)
- Structures of living things that allow them to survive (7.L.2)
- How local geography and environmental conditions effect societies, ancient to modern (7.G.1)
- How erosion is affected by potential and kinetic energy (7.P.2)
- Earth's atmosphere (weather and climate) is affected by water, gases, heat, and pressure (7.E.1)

8th Grade

- Environmental implications to energy obtaining and use (8.P.2)
- Impact of local water systems on humans (8.E.1)
- Changes on Earth recorded by fossils, rocks, and landforms (8.E.2)
- Diseases that affect organisms (8.L.2)
- How organisms interact with their environment (8.L.3)
- Evolution of organisms and landforms (8.L.4)
- Local geographic factors that influenced NC (8.G.1)
- Local cultures (Native American or others) and how they influenced NC (8.C.1)

High School

- Evolution by natural selection (OBio.3.4)
- Taxonomy and classification: Identifying organisms and classifying them by characteristics (OBio 3.5)
- Interdependence of organisms with their environments (Bio 2.1)
- Impact of human activities on the environment, both positive and negative (Bio2.2, OA6.1)
- Natural processes and human influences affect the earth's surface, water, atmosphere, and biosphere (EEn 2)
- Structures and processes within river systems (EEn.2.3)
- How humans use water (EEn.2.4)
- Patterns of global climate change and impacts on local environments (EEN2.6)