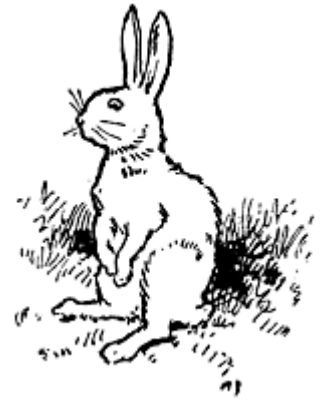




Fox vs Rabbit

First Grade



Science: 2.b., 2.c., 2.d.

Objective:

Students learn about predator and prey animals in the wild.

Method:

One child is a predator who tries to catch another child that is prey.

Materials:

Flat grassy area, blindfold. Optional: bell.

Background:

At the Kaweah Oaks Preserve, foxes hunt rabbits for food. The fox is a carnivore because it eats rabbit meat for food. It is also a predator because it must hunt and catch the rabbit. Rabbits are herbivores because they eat plants, such as grass and flowers. The rabbit has to blend in with its surroundings and have places, like rabbit holes, to escape if a predator tries to eat it. Rabbits at KOP have light brown fur so they match the grass and dirt. Their big, powerful back feet help them run really fast and escape foxes.

Procedure:

1. Take your class outside to a nice, flat area without holes or spiny plants.
2. Tell students about foxes and rabbits.
 - a. Emphasize that foxes prey on rabbits. Some types of animals eat other animals.
 - b. Tell the kids that foxes have sharp teeth for eating meat. Rabbits have flat teeth for eating plants.
3. Explain the rules of the game. All but two kids in the class will form a circle. Inside the circle, one child will be blindfolded: he or she is the predator. Joining the predator is the prey, who will not be blindfolded. The predator must use the sense of hearing and listen for other clues to detect where the prey is hiding in the circle.

The predator should chase the prey around until he or she is caught. If the predator starts to wander outside the circle, the other students should tap him or her on the shoulder.

4. To vary up the game, put a bell on the prey so that the strategy has to be changed.
5. If the game gets slow, make the circle tighter.
6. Keep playing the game till every student gets to be a predator or prey.
7. Then, discuss the different strategies everyone used when playing the game. What strategies would animals use in the wild?