

K-4 Field Trip Activities

1. Harris Creek Trail Scavenger Hunt

Hagerman National Wildlife Refuge is home to a great diversity of wildlife. Some of these animals include armadillo, woodpeckers, deer, and many more. When hiking, you may not always see them. On this walk, students will learn about the many forms of wildlife and become detectives by



searching for evidence of wildlife in the form of tracks, animal homes, and other signs. By exploring Harris Creek trail, you have a chance to use your senses to discover all about our wildlife and their habitats here on the refuge. The students will fill out bingo sheets by finding items like insects, nests, and acorns.

2. Healthy Habitats

People and other animals share some basic needs. Every animal needs a place to live, this is called a habitat. An animal's habitat includes food, water, shelter, and space in an arrangement congruent with the animal's needs. The students will be divided into



small groups and play a game to “track” animals around the area to learn about habitat and animal needs. Once the game is finished, the groups will return to the classroom to discuss how all animals have the same basic needs, but they meet those needs in different ways. For example: coyotes need more space and more food than insects do, and deer eat different types of food than birds.

3. Monarch Migration Game

The nearly 3,000-mile journey that monarch butterflies make during their migration is one of the most incredible behaviors observed throughout the animal kingdom. Texas is an important state in the monarch migration because it is situated between the principal breeding grounds in the north and the overwintering areas in Mexico. Monarchs funnel through Texas both in the fall and the spring. And...Hagerman NWR is a favorite place for them to rest and lay eggs along the way. This game gives students a chance to pretend that they are migrating monarch butterflies by wearing monarch wings and moving through migration stations. The students play this game to learn and explore the hazards and helpers monarchs encounter on their migration journey.



4. Gravity-Defying Grasshoppers

Did you know that if we were able to jump as far as grasshoppers do in relation to their size, we would be able to jump to the other side of a football field? Students will explore this amazing fact as well as investigate the world of grasshoppers and learn about what they like to eat, how they grow, and what they do to protect



themselves from other animals who want to eat them. They'll learn other fantastic facts about grasshoppers like their catapult-like back legs, and that they don't have ears on their heads - they have ears on their bellies! The students will learn all of this while exploring the refuge habitat that grasshoppers love and by playing a grasshopper jumping game or a food chain game!