

## 5-8 Field Trip Activities

### 1. Hike on Harris Creek Trail

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 and discuss how all of this fits into a food web.



## 2. Adaptation Artistry

Adaptation is a trait that makes an organism better able to survive in a particular environment. This activity allows students to explore the idea of ways that, over long periods of time, animals have adapted to the ecosystem in which they live. It begins with a review of the basic

needs of living things, and ways various animals meet those needs. The students will view photos of various birds in their habitats, noting differing characteristics and discussing reasons for these differences. Next students will choose a habitat and invent an imaginary bird well adapted to live in that habitat. They will draw or sculpt the bird and its habitat. Students will share their finished products and explain why each adaptation helps the bird survive in its habitat.



### 3. Prey vs. Predator Game

This is an exciting and active game that can be played almost anywhere. Predator-Prey teaches children about the food chain by assigning the participants roles that affect how they can play the game. Primary predators have the goal of finding and catching prey, while participants lower on the food



chain are faced with the challenge of avoiding predators while also meeting their own needs. Each participant quickly learns that it is not easy to survive, even if you are a predator. The object of the game is to “survive” by avoiding being eaten and getting enough food and water. The species with the most life tags at the end wins.

## 4. Ants on a Twig

Did you know? An ant can lift 50 times its own body weight. That would be like us being able to lift a car above our heads! In this activity the students will learn about the amazing ant. Ant communication and teamwork is a great model! In this field investigation activity students will observe ants in their natural habitat and learn about these amazing insects! This activity ends with a fun “Ants at the Picnic” game where the students demonstrate what they’ve learned.



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## 5. Butterflies in the Garden

Butterfly gardens are specially designed to attract, feed, and shelter butterflies. This activity provides a brief background on the butterfly garden and explains the importance of butterflies and pollinators. Students will hunt for butterflies in our butterfly garden using the butterfly binoculars to observe any butterflies or other pollinators they find while learning about native pollinators. The students will also fill out their own butterfly garden nature journal while exploring the garden.

