

LET'S EXPLORE

Working in teams, students explore features of creek habitat in depth and create displays to use in reporting to the class.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Learn about major features of creek habitat and the roles they play in the ecosystem.
- Gain hands-on experience in using research methods and in drawing inferences and conclusions.
- Work as a team to complete a task.
- Cultivate an interest in learning more.

WHAT TO DO

1) Contact us to arrange for this activity in the lower creek (access is through private property). We will provide each “Let’s Explore” kit (instructions, equipment, and supplies in a box), direct the activity, and facilitate team reporting.

2) Select which “Let’s Explore” kits you want to use. Each kit is designed for a team of 3 to 5 students. The kits explore

- Temperatures
- The Forest Floor
- What’s in the Water
- Streamside Bushes
- Water-Loving Plants
- Low-to-the-Ground Plants

3) Arrange to bring one adult or older student for each team.

OPTIONS

- Ask about using our adaptation of “Temperatures” to engage advanced students in an exploration of water chemistry.
- Ask about having more than one team explore the same thing; we may be able to duplicate a kit.
- Use this activity to lay the groundwork for a more challenging exploration or to stimulate ideas for a research project; see www.faultleroy.net/creek/projectideas.

SUPPORT FOR YOUR FIELD TRIP

- On-site leadership for this activity.
- A diagram of the residential site you will be visiting at www.faultleroy.net/creek/lowercreekdiagram.
- “Tricks for Taking Kids Outside” at www.faultleroy.net/creek/tipsandtricks.

SPECIAL MENTION

Ordinary Seattle rain should not require postponing your visit. Heavy rain, however, may create swift, high water that’s not safe for small children. In the event of a major rainstorm on your day, call early in the morning to strategize what to do.

Fencing, plants, and bridges help protect students along the natural creek channel and at the fish ladder (a canyon-like structure with steep sides and deep pools). Prepare your students to respect all barriers and use bridges to cross the creek.

THEMES

(depending on kit)
Stream Ecology
Water Quality
Biodiversity
Bugs
Forest Habitat
Native Plants

GRADES

K - 3

TIME

Up to 90 minutes