

Basic Needs of Living Things- Lesson One

4th Grade

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Benchmark:

4th Grade SLC 16: Demonstrate an understanding of the basic needs of living things.

Objectives:

Students will explore the basic needs of living things

Materials:

- Various objects (cup of water, cereal bar, money, shoes, balloon filled with air, model house)
- Peanut butter
- Wax paper
- Nuts in shells
- String
- Pan of water
- Science journals

Initial Demonstration:

Various objects will be placed in front of the class and the students will have to identify the ones that are *basic needs*. The class will list basic needs for humans, and explore other *organisms* to see if the basic needs differ. What about a squirrel, what do they need?

Target Observations:

- *Energy, water, gases (O₂) and shelter* should be identified and listed on the board as basic needs.

Target Model:

- In order for an organism to survive, it must meet its basic needs.

Procedure:

The students will make food balls of peanut butter and nuts. The balls will be threaded on a string and hung outside. Half of the students will hang their strings in “a

safe place” and half of the students will hang their strings in unusual habitats. The students will record in their journals predictions of what may happen to the balls.

Target Revised Model:

- Animals get their energy from food- this can include peanut butter and nuts
- Squirrels are very good at figuring out ways to get to hard-to-reach food

Summary:

All living organisms have basic needs. Squirrels have characteristics that help them get the type of food they eat more easily (as do other animals).