Division of Outdoor Experiences

Ohio Wildlife: ADAPTATIONS PROGRAM MAY BE A BETTER STANDARDS FIT?

Grade Level: 8

Length of Program: 45 minutes

Setting: Remote Learning

State Standard:
8.LS.2 Every organism alive today comes from a long line of ancestors who reproduced successfully every generation.
8.LS.3 The characteristics of an organism are a result of inherited traits received from parent(s).

Theme:
Ohio is host to some of the most amazing wildlife on the planet. Each species has special adaptations that allow them to succeed in their habitat. From wetlands to meadows and forests to river, learn more about the creatures that call Ohio habitats home.

Objectives (3-5)
At the end of the program, student will be able to:
- identify at least five animals that live in Ohio
- identify at least two animals that have made a comeback in Ohio.
- identify various physical and behavioral adaptations that help animals live in Ohio, especially during the cold winter months

Vocabulary (key concept words only)
- Biodiversity – The number and variety of organisms found within a specified geographic region.
- Ecosystem – The complex of a community of organisms and its environment functioning as an ecological unit.
- Endangered species – A species, subspecies or isolated population which is so rare or depleted in number or so restricted in range of habitat due to any man-made or natural factor that it is in immediate danger of extinction or extirpation
- Extirpated species – A species no longer surviving in regions that were once part of their range.
- Extinct – No longer existing or living.
- Species of concern – A species or population which warrants special protection, recognition, or consideration because it has an inherent significant vulnerability to habitat modification, environmental alteration, human disturbance, or substantial human exploitation which, in the foreseeable future, may result in its becoming threatened.
- Threatened species – A species, subspecies or isolated population which is acutely vulnerable to environmental alteration, declining in number at a rapid rate, or whose range or habitat is

decreasing in area at a rapid rate and as a consequence is destined or very likely to become endangered in the foreseeable future.

Materials needed:
black bear, bobcat, turkey, coyote, beaver, deer. Include both furs and skulls. Pictures and population charts, as appropriate.

Program Outline:
- Review habitat and the components that animals need in order to survive.
- Discuss how wildlife and biodiversity has changed over time in Ohio.
- Review important definitions such as extinct, endangered, and extirpated.
- Discuss the reasons animals have become endangered or extinct in Ohio (habitat loss, pollution, disease, and predation), resulting in unsuccessful reproduction.
- Discuss how habitats such as farms and wetlands have decreased in Ohio over time.
- Use specimens for Ohio animals that have decreased in population due to habitat loss (black bear and bobcat, for example).
- Discuss the growth of the conservation movement.
- Discuss how animals have been protected or brought back into the state. Be sure to include how people can help. Make sure you have current information on populations.
- Optional – give examples of how animals are affected worldwide by habitat loss and predation (including poaching and wildlife trade). Utilizing confiscated wildlife items, discuss utilizing wildlife for fashion, ornamental use, cosmetics, traditional Chinese medicine, pet trade, bushmeat, etc.