Ecology Program Basic Plan

**Title:** Finding Hot Springs’ Habitats

**Grades**: 2

**Length:** 1 hour

**Topic:** Aquatic and Forest Ecology of Hot Springs National Park

**Summary**:

Students will learn the basics of habits, including food, water, shelter, while visiting the thermal spring area and the forested hillside. Habitats can be super small and super large. Students will begin by studying the variety of organisms that live in a specific area. Then they will use their observation skills to learn about a specific organism and what it might use for food, water, and shelter.

**Arkansas State Standards**

2-LS2-1 Plan and conduct an investigation to determine if plants need sunlight and water to grow

2-LS2-2 Develop a simple model that mimics the function of an animal in dispersing seeds or pollinating plants

2-LS2-4 Make observations of plants and animals to compare the diversity of life in different habitats

**Essential Question:**

What types of plants and animals like to live in Hot Springs National Park?

**Enduring Understanding:**

Hot Springs National Park has habitats of all shapes and sizes, from the thermal water springs to the forested hillside.

Objectives

1. Students will be able to observe a 4’x4’ area of aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems and list the various plants and animals they see.
2. Students will be able to examine a specific plant or animal and identify how it might receive sunlight and water go grow.
3. Students will participate in an activity that shows the function of pollinators in the ecosystem.

Terms:

*Habitat*: A habitat is a place where an animal or plant lives that meets its needs to survive.

*Environment:* Everything living and non-living in a given area.

*Ecosystem*: The interactions between all the living (plants, animals, bugs) and non-living (water, dirt, rocks, sun) things in a given area.

*Terrestrial*: A habitat found on land, like forests, grasslands, deserts, shorelines, and wetlands.

*Aquatic*: A habitat found in the water, like a pond, lake, river, spring, or ocean.

*Pollinator*: an inspect or other animal that conveys pollen to a plant and allows fertilization.

Organisms: all living things, like plants, animals, bugs.