

Grasses Available in Different Habitats

Laurel Smith & Dawn Hagan

Grade: Intermediate Grades

Subject: Science, English

Science Standards: Content Standard 3; Benchmark 2,3,4,5 (end of 4th Grade)
Content Standard 1, Benchmark 1, 3, 4,

English Standards: Content Standard 4; Benchmark 1, 3 (end of 4th Grade)

Goals: 1.) Students will be able to identify upland, lowland, and riparian habitats.
2.) Identify the factors that control the vegetation in these areas.
3.) Understand the difference between the rhizome and bunch grass root systems.

Materials:

Examples of lowland, upland, and riparian habitats (pictures, visit sites)
Vegetation samples from each of these regions. (rhizome, bunch grasses, willows)
Journals
Pencils
Digital camera

Vocabulary:

Upland – dry area elevated above a river/creek land

Lowland – low land that is below the surrounding land but yet above the riparian area.

Riparian – land next to a river or lake and pond.

Rhizome – A creeping stem under or at the surface of the soil different from a root
having scale leaves and producing roots under the soil.

Bunch Grasses - different grasses that grow in tufts or clumps.

Procedure:

- Brainstorm ideas that they have about the three different regions.
- List some questions of what they want to know but don't know about the three different regions.
- Go visit the sites and collect samples and write or draw descriptions of vegetation specific to regions and their root systems.
- Students will also take pictures of the different vegetation found in the three different regions.
- Students will interpret the characteristics of root systems and other variations observed in plant life.
- Make the relationship between moisture content and plant life.

Assessment:

Students will build a model of one region of their choice exhibiting the correct characteristics of the region. (Rhizomes root systems versus Bunch grass root systems.)
Students will communicate their findings.



Upland Region
www.fws.gov



Lowland Region
www.deq.state.mt.us



Riparian Region
www.fayranches.com