

GENERATION Exchange

Essential Question:

Is important knowledge about ecosystems being lost due to lack of communication?

At a Glance:

Learners will share information about their natural environment with an older family or community member.

Background Information

Ecosystems are the way they are as a result of many processes occurring over a great deal of time. Sometimes new things are introduced that ecosystems are not ready for. These introductions can interrupt the functioning of the ecosystem – or sort of make it sick. When we get to know ecosystems better, like GEN Club Members do on their club sites, we can see ways in which we can help ecosystems recover. By learning about ecosystems, we realize how many relationships, connections and partnerships are required for these systems to function.

Humans can learn a lot from ecosystems – like the importance of working together and sharing information. We can also learn a lot from other people. People that have been around longer (and are older) have had more experiences, and many times these experiences involve ecosystems. In the not too distant past people lived closer to nature and ecosystems. As our landscapes and lifestyles have changed, we have become less connected. There is a lot of important information that older people have to offer. What may not seem important to them, could give us great insight into how ecosystems work – and about many other subjects, as well. If we take the time to talk with others, who knows what we will discover!

Procedure

1. Learners will choose an older family member, such as a grandparent, a neighbor or friend of the family to interview about changes that have occurred in the environment.
2. Through communication with this older person, GEN learners will gather information about an ecologically related topic. A great place to start would be to ask about changes that have taken place in the landscape. Another good topic is the relationship this person had with the outdoors as a child. Some great stories are sure to result. Learners may even be able to gather photographs or artifacts from this time period. Notes can be recorded on the template provided.
3. In exchange, learners will share something of their generation. Learners can show how to use a video game, research a topic via the internet, take digital pictures of a landmark – the possibilities are endless. The details (as well as friendships) will develop after the communication begins.
4. Learners will share what they exchanged with their GEN Club.

Location: outside or inside

Objective: Learners will

- 1) gather information from another person.

Skills: communication

Supplies:

- Pencil
- Paper
- Camera
- Ears for listening!

Subjects: science, language arts, geography

Time: variable

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Name _____ Exchange Partner Name _____
Topic _____ Time Period _____

Five interesting facts about the difference between the outdoors today and the outdoors in the past: _____

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

In exchange, I gave this information: _____

My thoughts about this experience: _____

