

**LESSON: Making Connections****GRADE:****1****OBJECTIVES:****Science**

**S.K-2-LS.3 Understand and apply knowledge of the basic needs of plants and animals and how they interact with each other and their physical environment.**

- Organisms interact with each other and their physical environment.
- Organisms can survive only in environments in which their needs can be met.

**Physical Education**

- **P.E. Standard 1** - Demonstrates competency in a variety of motor skills and movement patterns

**MATERIALS & RESOURCES:**

- Paper
- Markers

**PRESENTATION:**

Tell students that you are going outdoors to see what connections you can find. You probably can find some in the schoolyard, the local park or your own backyard. Describe some examples of these connections. When a bird eats berries and then migrates to South America for the winter, it deposits seeds, which may grow and be eaten by some other animal. Some plants and animals are carried by humans, purposefully or accidentally, to other countries or regions. Sometimes these new organisms are helpful, but sometimes they cause problems. Honeybees from Europe, which make yummy honey and pollinate our crops. Everything is connected in some way so; there are connections between these creatures your backyard and the rest of the world.

**DIRECTIONS:**

1. Take your class outdoors—anywhere. Stop and look. Take a short walk around the building or neighborhood.
2. Ask them what connections they can find. Encourage brief conversations about the connections the kids see.
3. Go back to the classroom.
4. Ask the kids to draw two concentric circles, a small one inside one that fills up most of the page. The one that fills up the page represents the whole world. In the small circle, draw something you saw in the schoolyard or park.
5. Draw rays out from the middle circle, and draw circles with things that are connected to what you put in the small circle (If the bird is in the middle circle, the seeds will be on a line coming out from there. Another line or branch might have leaves that the bird uses to make a nest).

**TIME:****90-120 min****PROCESSING THROUGH THE SIX PILLARS:****WHAT:**

- So what kinds of connections did you see in nature?
- Do you see how YOU are connected to nature?

**NOW WHAT:**

- What happens if an animal cannot find its food source in the backyard?
- What are some actions people take that bring harm to animals that live in our backyard?
- Can you help an animal in your backyard find a food source?

**SO WHAT:**

- What kinds of things can you do to care for animals in your backyard?