Be the hero of your own story.

This educator guide features lessons that comply with national standards in key content areas.

Educators! Go to walden.com/reelthinking to register your class for an interactive, standards-based NIM’S ISLAND Reel Thinking Event!

Log on to www.walden.com for additional activities and information. Register at walden.com/nimsurvey to win a Walden Media Library of books and DVDs.

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Welcome to Nim's Island

Nim's Island tells the fictional story of an adventurous girl named Nim, who lives on a remote island in the South Pacific Ocean. You might think that because Nim lives far from "civilization" she would be very lonely. But Nim is blessed with many good friends, including a bird named Galileo, a lizard named Fred, a green sea turtle named Chica and a sea lion named Selkie who looks after Nim as though Nim were one of Selkie's own pups. As a book, Nim's Island is a fun, engaging read. As a movie, the story expands beautifully to fit the big screen, becoming as informative a look at marine life in the South Pacific as it is a story packed with intrigue and adventure.

To further expand Nim's Island as a teaching resource, we have partnered with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Marine Sanctuary Program, tapping their educational expertise and their strong belief in stewardship of the ocean. With NOAA we have created lessons that will enhance your students' experience of the film, and deepen their appreciation for the riches to be found in the ocean.

Along the same lines, we have also partnered with the National Wildlife Federation (NWF), for their valuable insight and knowledge of animals and the many different habitats in which they can be found. Building on our past work with NWF, we feel privileged to be working once again with an organization whose influence on children — and the world they will one day inherit — is profound.

Though Nim's Island is an imaginary story, its depiction of the bio-diversity and richness of marine life is very real. So is its message of protecting for future generations all of the treasures to be found on and around Nim's Island. We hope that like Nim, our film encourages students to explore, respect and appreciate our oceans and coasts.

This guide was developed and produced by:
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EXPLORING NIM’S ISLAND

(Use your copy of NIM’S ISLAND by Wendy Orr to complete this activity.)

NIM’S ISLAND is filled with interesting places where Nim and her friends have adventures. As you read the book, use this map to help you explore some of the many places found on NIM’S ISLAND.

1. Draw bubbles at this place. This is where Nim measures them. (p. 15)
2. Draw Nim reading on top of this. (p. 15)
3. Put an “x” on each of the three places on the map. They are described on page 19.
4. Draw the sun rising pink over this. (p. 22)
5. Look at the picture on page 24. Find this same thing on the map. Now draw Nim at the top of it. Show what she is doing there.
6. Draw a dotted line showing where Nim went when she beachcombed. (p. 25)
7. Draw one of Nim’s friends as she is doing something very important in this place. (Hint: It’s in the email that Nim writes to Alex Rover.) (p. 39)
8. Draw the top of this doing something that’s pretty scary! (pp. 52-55)
9. Draw the ship in the place where the people on the ship smelled all kinds of stinky things! (p. 65)
10. Draw Nim going right into where Jack tells her to go as the storm is coming her way! (p. 100)

In which ocean is NIM’S ISLAND located?
How do we find this out in the book?
It’s supposed to be a secret!

Learn about the ocean and why it is so important. Use what you’ve learned to complete the crossword puzzle on the next page. Words in BOLD appear in the puzzle!

The Earth has one big, connected ocean, yet there are many ocean basins, such as the Indian Ocean.

The PACIFIC Ocean is the largest of the main ocean basins. Although its name means “peaceful,” it can be very rough! It is 111.7 million square miles.

The Atlantic Ocean is the busiest basin. Many ships cross the Atlantic, carrying cargo among the Americas, Africa and Europe. It is 66.1 million square miles. (This number includes the ARCTIC Ocean, which many oceanographers consider to be an extension of the North Atlantic.)

The Indian Ocean is located in an area bordered by the continents of Asia, Africa, Antarctica and Australia. It is 46.5 million square miles.

The average depth of the ocean is approximately 3,795 meters or 2.36 miles.

Earth’s highest mountains, deepest valleys and flattest plains are in the ocean.

Ocean CURRENTS flow like rivers. They carry warm water from the tropics, and cold water from the North and South Poles.

The average temperature of the ocean is about 39 degrees Fahrenheit (3.8 degrees Celsius).

Coral REEFS are large, rocky areas. They are found in shallow, tropical waters. They are like the tropical rain forest of the ocean! The greatest variety of plant and animal life in the ocean lives there. Coral reefs are formed from the bodies of small sea creatures called polyps.

The ocean covers approximately 70% of the Earth’s surface.

The ocean contains 97% of the Earth’s water.

The deepest point in the ocean is 36,198 feet (6.8 miles).

The ocean is a major influence on WEATHER and climate.

The ocean sustains life on Earth and makes it habitable.

The BLUE whale, the largest animal ever on Earth, still lives in the ocean. Its heart is the size of a Volkswagen “Beetle.”

TIDES result from the pull of the sun and moon on our rotating Earth.

The gray whale MIGRATES or “moves from one place to another on a regular basis” more than 10,000 miles each year. This is one of the longest migrations of any creature on Earth.

PLASTIC waste kills up to 1 million sea birds and countless numbers of animals (including fish) each year.

Over the past 10 years, an average of over 600,000 barrels of OIL a year have been spilled by accident from ships into the ocean. But even worse, every year, more oil than this is improperly flushed down drains by people – not by accident, but by carelessness, laziness and a lack of understanding of its impact on the ocean.

The ocean is the last and largest unexplored place on Earth – less than 5% of it has been explored.

The ocean affects every human life. It supplies fresh water (most rain comes from the ocean) and over half of Earth’s oxygen.

Think About It

More than 3.5 billion people depend on the ocean as their main source of food. Why is it important to keep the waters of the ocean clean?

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**THE OCEAN**

**Dive Into These Ocean Words**

Complete the crossword puzzle. The words you will need are listed.

**ACROSS**

1. The ocean influences this.
2. The color of the biggest whale on earth.
3. The largest of the four main oceans.
4. Moves from one place to another at the same time each year.
5. These flow like rivers.
6. Many oceanographers consider this to be an extension of the North Atlantic.
7. This kills up to 1 million sea birds each year.
8. This spills into the ocean from ships.
9. Large rocky areas made of coral.
10. They are caused by the pull of the sun and moon on the rotating earth.

**DOWN**

1. The ocean influences this.
2. The color of the biggest whale on earth.
3. The largest of the four main oceans.
4. Moves from one place to another at the same time each year.
5. These flow like rivers.
6. Many oceanographers consider this to be an extension of the North Atlantic.
7. This kills up to 1 million sea birds each year.
8. This spills into the ocean from ships.
9. Large rocky areas made of coral.
10. They are caused by the pull of the sun and moon on the rotating earth.

**LOOK INTO IT!**

View the “California Thank You Ocean” video at:

www.thankyouocean.org/

Make a list of things for which we can thank the ocean!
Jack and Nim make sure that none of the plants or animals on NIM’S ISLAND are harmed by people. NIM’S ISLAND is a make-believe place, but there are real special protected ocean areas called national marine sanctuaries. Marine sanctuaries are like underwater national parks. In these protected waters, giant humpback whales breed and calve their young, coral reefs flourish and shipwrecks tell stories of our maritime past. Sanctuary habitats have beautiful rocky reefs, kelp forests, whale migration routes and deep-sea canyons.

Our national marine sanctuaries provide safe habitats, called marine reserves, for species that are close to “dying out” or becoming extinct. National marine sanctuaries are also “living classrooms.” In these marine sanctuaries people can see, touch and learn about our nation’s underwater treasures. People can also learn how to protect them so that our underwater treasures will never disappear.

This picture shows the 14 marine protected areas managed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The 14 protected areas take up nearly 150,000 square miles of marine and Great Lakes waters. They can be found from Washington State to the Florida Keys, and from Lake Huron to American Samoa. The sanctuary system includes 13 national marine sanctuaries and the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands.
ack and Nim make sure that none of the plants or animals on Nim's Island, are harmed by people.

Nim's Island is a make-believe place, but there are real special protected ocean areas called National Marine Sanctuaries. Marine sanctuaries are like underwater national parks. In these protected waters, giant humpback whales breed and calve their young. Sanctuary habitats have beautiful rocky reefs, kelp forests, whale migration routes, and deep-sea canyons. You can also find shipwrecks!

These sanctuaries provide a safe habitat for species that are close to "dying out" or becoming extinct. National Marine Sanctuaries are also "living classrooms." In these marine sanctuaries people can see, touch, and learn about our nation's underwater treasures. People can also learn how to protect them so that underwater treasures will never disappear.

Explore the National Marine Sanctuary Program online at www.sanctuaries.noaa.gov/visit/. Click on the names of the sanctuaries listed here to answer the questions below.

1. Thunder Bay: Here you will find over 100 _____________________________________________________________________________.

2. Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale Marine Sanctuary:
   Here over 10,000 ________________ _____________ visit Hawaiian waters.

3. They come between the months of ________________ and ________________.

4. Draw a picture here of two things you could see in a marine sanctuary.

Become a member of Nim's Ocean Guardian Kid's Club
Here's what you can do to join...

Make a Difference • Volunteer your time or donate to an organization that works to protect ocean and coastal habitats.

Appreciate Your Ocean and Coasts • Enjoy the ocean, waterways and shorelines. But remember that this recreation area is a fragile home to many plants and animals.

Respect Your Ocean and Coasts • Recycle, reduce and reuse. Keep your trash and plastics off beaches and in trash cans.

Educate Yourself • Read about special ocean areas like national marine sanctuaries and share what you know.

Visit www.sanctuaries.noaa.gov/education to find out more about Nim's Ocean Guardian Kid's Club. Find out how your school can become an Ocean Guardian School.
There is no post office on NIM’S ISLAND. Nim and Alexandra communicate through email. Email is an important communication tool. So is letter writing. Writing a letter lets you tell other people about something you think is important. You can write a letter to a local business, a newspaper or “elected official” – such as city council member, mayor, or state or federal representative, to let them know how you feel and what you think needs to be done. This is called a persuasive letter. Persuade means “to try to get someone to do something by helping them to understand.”

Parts of a Letter

1) RETURN ADDRESS – Write your address here.
2) TODAY’S DATE
3) INSIDE ADDRESS – Write the name, title and address of the person to whom you are writing the letter here.
4) THE GREETING – Write “Dear,” followed by the person’s title, last name and a colon (:). For example, you might write “Dear Senator Rodriguez:”. This part of the letter is also called the Salutation.
5) THE BODY – This is where you write what you want the person to know. Write clearly and simply.
6) THE CLOSING – This is the way you end or close your letter. Here, use a comma (,). “Sincerely” is the word you can use to end your letter.
7) SIGNATURE – Sign your name! You may also choose to include your age.
8) THE ENVELOPE – Address the envelope as shown. Be sure to include the right ZIP codes!
9) POSTAGE – Use a stamp for the right amount. Put it on the upper right corner of the envelope. You’re ready to send your letter!

Write for Wildlife!

Want to write to your lawmakers asking them to protect wildlife? Go to the National Wildlife Federation’s “Action Headquarters”: www.nwf.org/action. Here you can find out about important laws and bills to help wildlife and save their natural habitats. Research the issues and write a letter to your local representatives or members of Congress. Let them know how you think they should vote on these bills and why!

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Express Yourself
WRITE A LETTER

Return Address

Inside Address

Today’s Date

Greeting

Body

Closing

Your Signature

Your Age
While the Earth may be covered with water, very little of it can actually be used by humans. What does this mean for the ways we use water? What does this mean for the creatures who live in the ocean?

Materials

- 2 large clear plastic containers or an aquarium (at least 4 gallons)
- 3.4 gallons of water – “The World’s Water Supply”
- 2 or 3 smaller buckets or containers (1 gallon or less)
- 2 or 3 measuring cups; several water droppers
- a map of the world or a globe; labels for containers; markers for writing labels; writing materials for brainstorming in small groups

Objectives

- Appreciate how little water is actually available for human use
- Discuss how humans use water
- Reflect on the implications of human use on creatures who live in the ocean
- Brainstorm ideas for conserving water and working to halt pollution
Procedures

1. Brainstorm with students the ways in which people use water. You may wish to have students work in small groups to create a list of uses. When students have finished, you may wish to help arrange their findings with the following headings:

   PERSONAL USES • COMMERCIAL USES • INDUSTRIAL USES • ELECTRICITY • IRRIGATION

2. Brainstorm a list of places where water can be found. (Students may first do this in small groups using their Student Activity Sheets.)

3. Challenge students to brainstorm the order in which bodies of water on Earth exist, from greatest volume (ocean) to the least volume (rivers and streams). Explain that all of this water originates from the ocean.

4. Invite students to sit in a circle around the “world’s water supply.”

5. Demonstrate for students that for this activity, you will begin with about 3.4 gallons of water. This will stand for all the water on Earth.

6. Piece by piece, you and your students can remove different bodies of water that are not available for human use (see chart). Each time students remove a “body of water,” they should place that water in a separate container.

7. Invite students to first remove the water that represents the ocean. Use the chart on this page for the approximate amounts of water they should remove. You may wish to count with students as they remove the water or have the class count along to make sure the proper amount is removed.

8. Challenge students to state why this water cannot be used by humans (because of the salt that ocean water contains).

9. Invite students to next remove the water stored in icecaps and glaciers, then inland seas, then (if it is possible at this point) a tiny bit for soil moisture and the atmosphere combined. As the water bodies become progressively smaller, help students to decide to use different measuring cups or water droppers to extract the water.

10. After the listed amounts are removed, ask students about what’s left. Point out for students that humans can use only the amount remaining in the large container. (This is less than 1% of the world’s water.) Challenge students to explain why this is so.

11. Conclude this activity by inviting students to reflect on some of these questions and to write about them on the STUDENT ACTIVITY PAGE:

   • What is your connection with the ocean, even if it is hundreds or thousands of miles away from where you live?
   • What are some things you can do to conserve water?

REPRESENTATIVE AMOUNTS of WATER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Body of Water</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ocean</td>
<td>49 cups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ice Caps/Glaciers</td>
<td>1 cup &amp; 1 tbs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ground Water</td>
<td>1/3 cup or 5 tbs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freshwater Lakes</td>
<td>1/4 teaspoon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inland Seas</td>
<td>1/4 teaspoon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soil Moisture</td>
<td>1/8 teaspoon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atmosphere</td>
<td>tiny drop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rivers &amp; Streams</td>
<td>immeasurably tiny</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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All of the water on Earth comes from the __________________________________________

What is your connection with the ocean, even if it is hundreds of miles away from where you live?

______________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________

What are some things you can do to conserve water and to make sure it doesn’t become polluted?

______________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________

Why is this important for the creatures who live in water?

______________________________________________________________________________________

Draw a picture of a creature from NIM’S ISLAND or a creature found where you live. Show some of the things it does in its habitat.
DESIGN A WILDLIFE HABITAT

Help find habitat for an animal from NIM’S ISLAND, or an animal found where you live. Fill in the worksheet as you learn about this animal’s habitat. What does it need to live and raise its young? You can visit the National Marine Sanctuary Program’s Encyclopedia of Marine Life at www.marinelife.noaa.gov to learn more about Nim’s ocean friends.

1. Animal: __________________________________________________________

2. Region or ecosystem where this animal is found: __________________________

3. Habitat needs for this animal:

- **FOOD:**
- **WATER:**
- **COVER:**
- **PLACES TO RAISE YOUNG:**

3. Other plants and animals that might live nearby: __________________________

4. One interesting fact I found is: _________________________________________

Now that you know more about what it takes to provide wildlife habitat, go to www.NWF.org/habitat and design your own backyard or schoolyard habitat project.

**Habitat** — the area where a species finds all of its requirements for survival; these four requirements are 1) food, 2) water, 3) cover and 4) space – including places to raise young.

**Cover** — something that provides shelter to protect, to hide or to keep warm.
• Make time to visit aquariums during weekday afternoons during the school year. Typically those are less crowded times, except during school vacations.
• Go to the aquarium ahead of your class field trip. Scope it out with respect to your own class’ needs. Navigate it before, not once you are there.
• Always bring other adults along – parent volunteers – a man and a woman, if possible.
• Find out where the bathrooms are.
• Find out about parking for your school bus or buses.
• Teach your class how to walk up and down stairways so that they don’t interrupt the flow of traffic.
• Have a couple of hand signals — that work — so that you can get your class’ attention on a moment’s notice, and without having to shout.
• Figure out how much money students should bring to spend in the gift shop. Look at what’s there and see what the average price is. Set a limit so kids aren’t trying to outspend one another.

• Take time to focus on a few exhibits rather than trying to quickly look at every one.
• Describe what you see and make comparisons between different animals and between different exhibits.
• Give your students a group assignment based on your pre-visit: information to find, things to look for, etc. Have students plan to present something they learned or observed during their visit and what they think about it or what new questions they have.

• Look carefully, and talk about what you notice.
• Ask open-ended questions, such as:
  - What do you notice that you’ve never seen before?
  - Why do you think that fish is shaped that way and this other fish is shaped differently?
  - What ways can you think this exhibit or these animals are connected to our daily lives?
  - Which animal seems most interesting or exciting? What makes it interesting or exciting to you?

- How many different mouth shapes (or body shapes or fin shapes or tail shapes) can you find? What do you think each shape or set of shapes helps that type of fish to do well? Why?
- What are people doing to help these animals and the habitats they come from to be healthy?

Help your students become “OCEAN LITERATE” just like Nim and Jack

Ocean literacy is an understanding of the ocean’s influence on you — and your influence on the ocean. An ocean-literate person:

• understands the seven essential principles about the functioning of the ocean:
  1) the Earth has one big ocean with many features;
  2) the ocean and life in the ocean shape the features of the Earth;
  3) the ocean is a major influence on weather and climate;
  4) the ocean makes Earth habitable;
  5) the ocean supports a great diversity of life and ecosystems;
  6) the ocean and humans are inextricably interconnected; and
  7) the ocean is largely unexplored.
• can communicate about the ocean in a meaningful way; and
• is able to make informed and responsible decisions regarding the ocean and its resources.

Find out more about ocean literacy and how you can join the network at:
www.coexploration.org/oceanliteracy.
NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION
www.nwf.org

National Wildlife Federation (NWF) inspires Americans to protect wildlife for our children's future. NWF believes education is the key to creating a world where wildlife thrives. We teach children, families and concerned citizens how they can help protect wildlife and our natural world.

For more than 70 years, NWF has been connecting people of all ages with nature through award-winning education programs and resources, such as Backyard Wildlife Habitat®, Schoolyard Habitats®, Climate Classroom and Green Hour® programs. NWF publishes Your Big Backyard® and Ranger Rick®, the nation's first environmental magazine for kids. These programs and publications have guided generations to learn more about wildlife and open their eyes, hearts and minds to the mysteries and wonders of nature.

NWF engages millions to speak and act on behalf of wildlife and our environment. You can get involved by observing National Wildlife Week from April 19-27 and get active outdoors. Join others as you watch wildlife where you live during the National Wildlife Watch. Download local wildlife lists and even report your sightings online at www.nwf.org/watch. If you want to do something more hands-on, visit www.nwf.org/youthservice for many ideas about special environmental action projects that you can do at home or get others to do with you.

NOAA NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY PROGRAM
www.sanctuaries.noaa.gov

The NOAA National Marine Sanctuary Program seeks to increase the public awareness of America’s marine resources and maritime heritage by conducting scientific research, monitoring, exploration and educational programs. Today, the sanctuary program manages 13 national marine sanctuaries and one marine national monument that together encompass more than 150,000 square miles of America’s ocean and Great Lakes natural and cultural resources.

Although NIM’S ISLAND is an imaginary place, special ocean areas such as national marine sanctuaries really do exist. These marine protected areas are living classrooms where people can see, touch and learn about our nation’s underwater treasures, as well as protect them for future generations. The ocean sustains life on Earth, so find out more about these special ocean areas and what you can do to help at www.sanctuaries.noaa.gov/education.

Make sure to visit www.sanctuaries.noaa.gov to find out more about protecting and preserving America’s ocean and Great Lakes treasures and how you can become a member of Nim’s Ocean Guardian Kid’s Club. Also visit the National Marine Sanctuaries’ Encyclopedia of Marine Life at www.marinelife.noaa.gov to find out more information about Nim’s ocean friends, and you won’t want to miss the exciting NIM’S ISLAND virtual expedition on www.oceanslive.org.

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Walden Media and Animal Planet’s Nim’s Island Our World: A Reel Thinking Event is an entertaining educational broadcast that will inspire your students to take an active role in preserving and protecting their environment. Plan to watch it with your students — and classrooms nationwide — on Animal Planet on Wednesday, April 2, at 10 AM ET/PT. The program will feature:

- Standards-based Science, Language Arts, Social Studies, Visual Arts and Character Education content
- Interviews with environmental experts and Nim’s Island cast & filmmakers
- Sneak preview film clips
- Students who have already begun to affect change with the environment through their own efforts

When you sign up, you’ll gain access to comprehensive standards-based curriculum and be invited to participate in pre-event webchats with featured experts from the National Wildlife Federation and the NOAA National Marine Sanctuaries Program and author Wendy Orr.

THERE’S MORE! Students are invited to enter Walden Media’s Nim’s Island Our World Environmental Challenge, sponsored by Razoo. Submit YOUR idea for improving the environment — in your own backyard, across town, or around the world! Your ideas will be put to an online vote to select a pool of finalists from which our expert panel will select winners to receive cash prizes to implement their plans! Go to www.walden.com/reelthinking for official rules.

Register now at www.walden.com/reelthinking

NATIONAL CONTENT STANDARDS FOR ACTIVITIES
All activities are appropriate for grades 2 through 5.

**ACTIVITY ONE**
Explore Nim’s Island
English/Language Arts: NCTE/IRA
Standard 1: Reading for Perspective
Standard 3: Evaluation Strategies
Social Studies: NCSS Standard 3: People, Places and Environments
Science: NSES Grades K-4 Life Sciences Standard C: students should develop understanding of: the characteristics of organisms, life cycles of organisms, and organisms and environments
Visual Arts: CNAEA Standard 1: Understanding and Applying Media, Techniques and Processes

**ACTIVITY TWO**
The Ocean
English/Language Arts: NCTE/IRA
Standard 5: Communication Strategies
Social Studies: NCSS Standard 3: People, Places and Environments
Science: NSES Grades K-4 Life Sciences Standard C: students should develop understanding of: the characteristics of organisms, life cycles of organisms, and organisms and environments

**ACTIVITY THREE**
Protecting the Ocean
English/Language Arts: NCTE/IRA
Standard 3: Reading for Perspective
Standard 3: Evaluation Strategies
Social Studies: NCSS Standard 3: People, Places and Environments

**ACTIVITY FOUR**
Write a Letter for Wildlife!
English/Language Arts: NCTE/IRA
Standard 4: Communication Skills
Social Studies: NCSS Standard 2: Time, Continuity and Change
Character Education: Chicago Public Schools
Character Standard 1: Caring; Standard 6: Honesty and Truthfulness

**ACTIVITY FIVE**
Water, Water Everywhere
English/Language Arts: NCTE/IRA
Standard 5: Communication Strategies
Mathematics: NCTM Measurement; Understands measurable attributes of objects and the units, systems and processes of measurement
Social Studies: NCSS Standard 3: People, Places and Environments
Science: NSES Grades K-4 Life Sciences Standard C: students should develop understanding of: the characteristics of organisms, life cycles of organisms, and organisms and environments

**ACTIVITY SIX**
Design a Wildlife Habitat
Social Studies: NCSS Standard 3: People, Places and Environments
Science: NSES Grades K-4 Life Sciences Standard C: students should develop understanding of: the characteristics of organisms, life cycles of organisms, and organisms and environments.