



**Environmental  
Education  
Center**

**Eighth Grade  
Programs  
TEKS and TAKS Alignment**



<b>Eighth Grade Programs</b>	<b>TEKS Science</b>	<b>TEKS Social Studies</b>	<b>TEKS Math</b>	<b>TEKS Reading/ L. Arts</b>	<b>TAKS Objective(s)</b>	<b>Program Description</b>
<b><i>Animal Adaptations – Birds</i></b>	8.6, 8.11 (A,B,C)		8.14 (A)	8.1 (A,B,C,D) 8.2 (A-F)	2,3	The emphasis of this program is bird identification and adaptations of birds to their environment. In the field experience, students will use binoculars to observe bird populations associated with the EEC. Migratory patterns of different birds will be discussed.
<b><i>Pond Ecosystem</i></b>	8.1 (A, B), 8.2(B), 8.4(A), 8.6 (C), 8.11 (A)		8.14 (A)	8.1 (A,B,C,D) 8.2 (A-F)	3	This program introduces the basic principals of ecology through the study of our typical Texas farm pond. The pond plays a critical role in the life of local plants and animals, as well as playing host to a variety of migrating and wintering birds. Field experiences will involve activities such as seining the pond to collect and identify a variety of organisms and determine their place in the overall ecology of the pond. Students will use appropriate material and equipment to collect samples from the pond to examine the microscopic life of the pond using a video microscope.
<b><i>Forest Ecology/ Ecosystem</i></b>	8.1 (A), 8.2 (B, C), 8.6(C), 8.11 (A), 8.14 (A, C)		8.14 (A)	8.1 (A,B,C,D) 8.2 (A-F)	3,5	This program will focus on some of the unique aspects of a woodland ecosystem with emphasis on the micro-communities. Students will use pocket microscopes to observe small plant and animal life.
<b><i>Grassland Ecology</i></b>	8.1 (A), 8.2 (A,B,C), 8.6 (B,C), 8.11 (A, B)		8.14 (A)	8.1 (A,B,C,D) 8.2 (A-F)	2,3	Focus for this program will be on the succession of grassland and how it can affect the surrounding habitat. This study will show students the gradual changes that occur in plants and animals over time that live in each type of habitat. Dichotomous keys will be used for identification of specimens.
<b><i>Reptiles and Amphibians</i></b>	8.1 (A), 8.2 (A,B,C), 8.6 (B), 8.11 (A, B)		8.14 (A)	8.1 (A,B,C,D) 8.2 (A-F)	2,3	Students will explore the basic characteristics of reptiles and amphibians and their morphological and behavioral adaptations. Live and preserved specimens will be used to identify a variety of organisms in these groups. Students will have opportunities to interact with some specimens.
<b><i>Your Planet... Your Decision</i></b>	8.1 (A, B), 8.11 (A)	8.29 (C)	8.14 (A)	8.1 (A,B,C,D) 8.2 (A-F)	1	In spite of enormous environmental problems, each one of us can make decisions daily that will help the earth be more livable for ourselves and future generations. The field experience will involve a trip to the grounds or gardens where students will use appropriate equipment to plant a tree or make compost at the EEC and receive a tree for planting at their school campus.

<p><b>Now You See 'em, ... Now You Don't</b> <i>*new program</i></p>	<p>8.1 (A), 8.2 (A,B,C), 8.6 (B, C), 8.11 (A) <b>8.14 (B,C)</b></p>		<p>8.14 (A)</p>	<p>8.1 (A,B,C,D) 8.2 (A-F)</p>	<p>1,2,3,4</p>	<p>Species endangerment and extinction is a serious problem that is escalating. This program, which is tied closely to TEKS objective 8.14, is designed to provide students with information about threatened, endangered, &amp; extinct species in Texas and worldwide. The factors involved in the current threats to biodiversity in ecosystems in Texas &amp; around the world will be explored. Students will have an opportunity to see &amp; examine specimens or examples of some endangered, threatened, or extinct animals.</p>