Nashua River Watershed Investigations for Grades K-8

Lesson # K-1

Title: K-1 Animal Appetites: Plants provide food so animals can survive

Grade Level & Standard: Grade K
K-LS1-1. Observe and communicate that animals (including humans) and plants need food, water, and air to survive. Animals get food from plants or other animals. Plants make their own food and need light to live and grow.

Objective:
In the classroom, students will look at examples of plants and seeds that have signs of animal "chewing", such as leaves chewed by insects, seeds eaten by mice or twigs nibbled by deer. Teachers may choose to use printed images instead of natural items.

Vocabulary:

- **Pine cone-** holds the seeds for a pine tree
- **Acorn-** seed for an oak tree
- **Insect-** a small animal with 3 body parts and six legs.
- **Survive-** a plant or animal being able to live.

Discussion Points: What do animals need in order to live? What do plants need in order to live? Could animals get food from plants? How do plants get food?

Materials:

- Samples of leaves or twigs that have been eaten by insects or other animals.
- Tally sheet
- clipboards
- Pictures of leaves, acorns and seeds
- Small bags for each student

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Procedure (40 minutes to 60 minutes):

1. In the classroom, show pictures or real examples of insects or other animals that eat plants. Show photographs or actual examples of caterpillar chew marks, twigs nipped off by rabbits, or bark peeled off by deer.
2. Prepare students to go outside. Explain expectations for outdoor behavior. Explain “Animal Appetite” outdoor tally sheet.
3. When outside, students will find signs of animal and insect activity by observing partially eaten plants, chewed leaves, acorns with small holes, bark removed, pine cones ripped apart, or acorns chewed by squirrels.
4. If appropriate, students can collect samples in small bags. Be sure students are completing the tally sheet.

Extension:

- Observe meal worms with plant food (potatoes).
- Classroom game: Students pretend to be animals looking for food. Teacher would need to hide pretend food in the room (pictures of leaves, acorns, seeds).

Data Sheet:

- Animal Appetite data sheet
- Examples of animals eating plants

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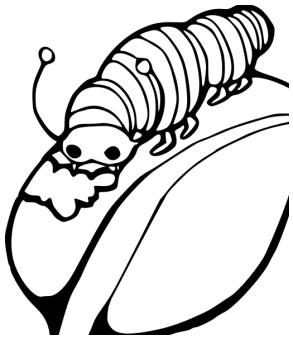
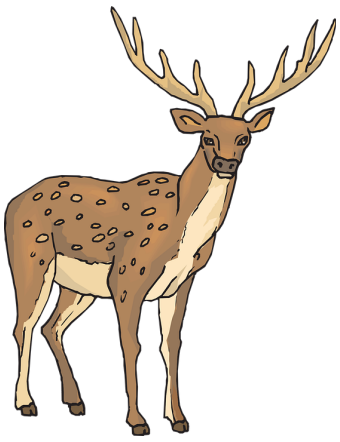
Animal Appetites DATA SHEET **NRWI Lesson K-1**

Name_____

Put a tally mark where animals or insects have been eating!

Insects chewing leaves 	
Acorns or pine cones eaten	
Bark or twigs eaten by animals. 	

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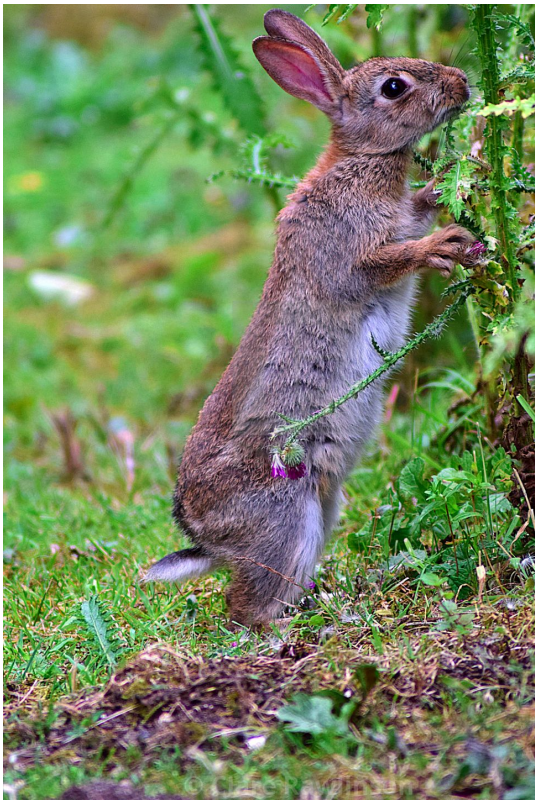
Examples of animals eating plants

Monarch caterpillar eating milkweed leaf
(www.sites.psu.edu)

Deer browsing on trees
(www.extension.colostate.edu)

Rabbit nibbling on flowers
(www.pinterest.com)



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