

Creek Critters



To Request a Program: <https://bit.ly/2L7Or9C>

What is Creek Critters? Our Creek Critters program involves an interactive lesson and demonstration to teach kids about water resources and aquatic ecosystems. As part of this, kids are given the opportunity to see real aquatic organisms collected from a local creek!



The program runs about 45-60 minutes, but can be adapted depending on the time available.

Elements of the program include the following:

1. Introduction about what the Cumberland River Compact does and why it's important to protect our streams and rivers.
2. Lesson on where water is found (oceans, ice caps, lakes) and how we depend on a tiny fraction of this water to sustain us.
3. Demonstration on aquatic biology and how we collect our creek critters for study.
4. Interactive games that teach students about the roles of different animals in a food web and how changes in the environment can affect the ecosystem.
5. Opportunity to view preserved aquatic animals (fish, crayfish, various aquatic insects) and live aquatic animals if the conditions are suitable.

Target Age: The program is geared towards 4th graders, but can be modified for 3rd-6th grade. We typically teach one full grade level, cycling through 3-5 classes. We start mid-morning to allow time to catch the critters before coming to the school. Science periods, or something similar, are often good for this activity.

Space Required: about a 25'x25'space + 4-5 tables; Outdoor classrooms, gyms, and school libraries work well, but normal classrooms are usually too small.

Time of Year: The program is run from mid-March to early October, but the best months are August, September, and early October.

****We only come to each school once a year to ensure the sustainability of the program.**

If you have any further questions about this program please reference the link below:

<http://cumberlandrivercompact.org/about/our-work/creek-critters/>

Standards For:	
Third Grade	<u>3.LS2.1</u> : Construct an argument to explain why some animals benefit from forming groups.
Fourth Grade	<p><u>4.LS2.2</u>: Develop models of terrestrial and aquatic food chains to describe the movement of energy among producers, herbivores, carnivores, omnivores, and decomposers. <u>4.LS2.3</u>: Using information about the roles of organism (producers, consumers, decomposer), evaluate how those roles in food chains are interconnected in a food web, and communicate how the organisms are continuously able to meet their needs in a stable food web.</p> <p><u>4.LS2.4</u>: Develop and use models to determine the effects of introducing a species to, or remove a species from, an ecosystem and how either one can damage the balance of the ecosystem.</p> <p><u>4.LS2.5</u>: Analyze and interpret data about changes (land characteristics, water distribution, temperature, food, and other organisms) in the environment and describe what mechanisms organism can use to affect their ability to survive and reproduce.</p>
Fifth Grade	<u>5.LS4.2</u> : Use evidence to construct an explanation for how variations in characteristics among individual within the same species may provide advantages to those individual in their survival and reproduction.
Sixth Grade	<p><u>6.LS2.2</u>: Determine the impact of competitive, symbiotic, and predatory interactions in an ecosystem</p> <p><u>6.LS2.3</u>: Draw conclusions about the transfer of energy through a food web and energy pyramid in an ecosystem.</p> <p><u>6.ESS3.3</u>: Assess the impacts of human activities on the biosphere including conservation, habitat management, species endangerment, and extinction.</p>