



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EDUCATION ACTIVITY

Third grade students dive into Science: Exploring crayfish and plant growth

In a bustling third grade classroom at Humphreys Central Elementary School, students are embarking on a thrilling journey of scientific exploration, immersing themselves in the fascinating world of crayfish and plant growth. Guided by their enthusiastic teacher, Ms. Baker, these young scientists are actively engaged in the study of "Structures of Life."

The classroom is abuzz with the animated chatter of students working in groups, each focused on a specific aspect of their scientific investigation. Their mission is twofold: to delve into the anatomy and habitat of crayfish and to measure and record plant growth, while pondering the conditions that optimize plant development.

Ms. Baker radiates enthusiasm as she observes her students, captivated by the crayfish habitat.

"I love seeing students get so excited and so actively engaged with their learning," she said, listening to her students engage in animated discussions in the vibrant learning environment she has created.

One of the most thrilling aspects of this scientific journey is the opportunity for students to come into contact with live animals, specifically crayfish. Fearlessly, these third graders examine the crayfish, gaining a deeper understanding of their anatomy and habitat. Many students admit to thoroughly enjoying this hands-on experience, even exclaiming, "They are so cute! It's fun to pick them up!"

While some students are drawn to the crayfish, others prefer to work with plants, exploring their growth and the factors that influence it. Their work extends to measuring and recording the plant's progress, fostering a keen sense of responsibility and patience. Each student has the opportunity to work with both animals and plants, ensuring a well-rounded educational experience.

This multidimensional approach to learning has a profound impact on the students. It fosters not only scientific knowledge but also important life skills like teamwork, critical thinking, and an understanding of the delicate balance that exists in nature.

As the students venture further into the world of crayfish and plant growth, their excitement continues to grow. They're not merely learning about science: they're living it. Ms. Baker's dedication and her students' enthusiasm

have transformed the classroom into a dynamic hub of exploration and discovery. These third graders are sowing the seeds of a lifelong love for science, nurturing their curiosity and inspiring them to become future scientists and environmental stewards



Third grade students study crayfish at Humphreys Central Elementary School, Camp Humphreys 16 Oct 2023.



Students in Ms. Baker's 3rd grade class getting up close and personal with crayfish at Humphreys Central Elementary School, Camp Humphreys 16 Oct 2023.