

Second Grade Life Cycles



The second grade class is answering the question “What is a Life Cycle?” through a project-based learning unit that is inquiry-based using the 5E instructional model. The 5 Es of this method are engagement, exploration, explanation, extension, and evaluation.

The 5E model is student-led with the teacher serving as a facilitator. Through open-ended questions, real-life experiences, guided investigations, and student-conducted research, students have explored the life cycles of plants, insects, and animals. Their own transformation will be on display in their interactive educational art show and in the reading haikus that they have composed.

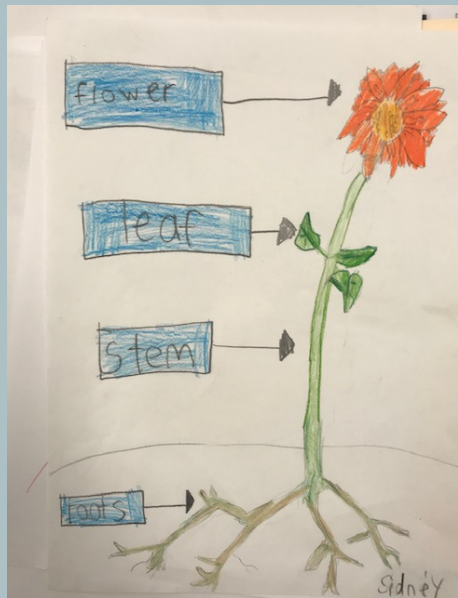
Driving Questions

How can we teach others about the importance of life cycles in the world? How can we use art, writing, reading, math and science to share our knowledge about life cycles?



Students demonstrated an understanding of the life cycles of plants and animals and applied this understanding to create an educational art show for their community by:

- Working together to identify life cycles of different types of living things.
- Observing and discovering more aspects of plant and animal life cycles by observing the metamorphosis of live caterpillars to butterflies and ladybugs.
- Using Writer's Workshop to write information about various life cycles.
- Creating a garden in the greenhouse, recording observations each week.
- In connection with life cycles, learning about food chains through a study of owls.
- Evaluating their own understanding of life cycles and demonstrating the knowledge of concepts and vocabulary through two- and three-dimensional art projects.
- Connecting knowledge of life cycles to the food chain, researching owls and dissecting owl pellets.



Deliverables

- Flower and vegetable gardens
- An interactive educational art show
- Haikus about life cycles