



## HUMANITIES AND THE SUNSHINE STATE

TEACHING FLORIDA'S CLIMATES

In partnership with the Florida Humanities Council

JUNE 24-28, 2019 UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

### LESSON PLAN

**Teacher(s):** Westfall, da Silva, Denyse Cohen

**Grade(s):** 6-8

**Subject(s):** Science, Language Arts, 2D Art

**Title of Lesson:** *Exploring the Ecosystems of Cross Creek*

#### **Learning Objectives:**

- reading comprehension
- understanding the interconnectedness of ecosystems through food webs and chains
- analyzing relationships between species
- explaining the flow of energy within an environment through trophic levels
- apply a range of influence and contextual connections to influence the art making and self-reflection processes

#### **Lesson Outline:**

Day 1:

- Students will work individually to close read a passage from Cross Creek by Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings.
- Class discussion to discuss what they read, as an introduction to food chains
- Teacher explains how food chains, food webs work; guided notes in INB

Day 2:

- Students draw representations of the organisms historically found in the Cross Creek ecosystem (pairs split the list) and then work together to organize the organisms into food chains or webs depending on grade level.
- Teacher checks for accuracy while monitoring. Once correct, students can paste their web/chain into their INB and add the arrows showing the transfer of energy.

Day 3:

- Compare historic ecosystem communities/food webs to modern ones for Cross Creek. Have students come up with ideas as to why things have changed there. Use this as an introduction to climate change.

**Learning Strategies:**

- close reading
- student led learning and organization
- collaborative learning

**Science Concept(s):**

- interconnectedness of ecosystems
- food webs and chains
- trophic levels and energy transfer

**Humanities Concept(s):**

- exploring past ecosystems through personal histories
- close reading strategies
- 2D drawings

**Technique(s)/Resource(s) Incorporated from Teaching Florida's Climates Workshop:**

- Cross Creek by Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings
- exploring past ecosystems through personal histories

**Student Assessment Strategies:**

- informal formative assessment
- collaboration and synthesis/mutual accountability

**Benefit to our students:**

- differentiation to reach students through several media
- reading practice
- introduction to concepts that will be on the CFE and will be revisited and/or built upon in further science classes

**Resources and Materials (supplies needed for activities):**

- INBs
- scissors
- glue sticks
- pens/pencils
- colored pencils/markers/crayons
- PowerPoint/Nearpod etc.