Kindergarten IEFA/Science Lesson

**Turtle’s Race with Beaver**

*FOSS connection: Animals 2X2*  
(after investigation 1)

**Essential Understanding 3:**  
The ideologies of Native traditional beliefs and spirituality persist into modern day life as tribal cultures, traditions, and languages are still practiced by many American Indian people and are incorporated into how tribes govern and manage their affairs. Additionally, each tribe has their own oral histories, which are as valid as written histories. These histories pre-date the discovery of North America.

**Science Content Standard:**  
3.5 Create and use a classification system to group a variety of plants and animals according to their similarities and differences.

**Understandings:** students will understand…  
- Animals can be classified by the habitats in which they live.

**Essential Question:**  
- How are animals that live in a pond different from animals that live on land? How are they the same?

**Students will be able to:**  
- Place animal pictures into the correct habitat  
- Students will identify that fables teach a lesson  
- Students will know that this fable is from an American Indian Tribe  
- Students will identify where various animals live: water or land

**Students will know:**  
- How animals live together in the wetland environment  
- Many animals live around and in the pond.

**Assessment Evidence:**  
- Table activity placing animal pictures in correct habitat  
- Student Notebook entry with animal picture
Learning Plan

1. (ENGAGE) APPROX. 5 MIN.
   Build background
   Explain to students: a fable is like the story of The Tortoise and the Hare, usually told out loud and always has a lesson to teach the listener/reader. Do you know the story of the tortoise and the hare?

   The story that we will read today is a fable from the Seneca Tribe. It is an oral story told as a fable. The Seneca Tribe is not a Montana Tribe, but there are similar stories told by the Montana Tribes.

2. (EXPLORE) APPROX. 10 MIN.
   Read the story: Turtle’s Race with Beaver to the students. While reading, ask questions like:
   a. Which animals do you notice in the story?
   b. What does hibernation mean? When do animals hibernate? Why do they do that?
   c. How are a turtle and a beaver different?
   d. What do you notice about the animals cheering for turtle?
   e. What do you notice about the animals cheering for beaver?
   f. Why would a beaver build a dam or a lodge?

3. (EXPLAIN) APPROX. 5 MIN.
   After reading the story discuss the lesson to be learned from this fable:
   The weaker, but wiser often wins the race (common in Native American fables) and sharing is important. Talk to students about turtle biting; never an option/not a good choice for us. What are some other choices turtle could have made?

   Explain/Model group table activity. Students will go back to tables and have a paper pond/land environment on each table. Each student will be given a picture of an animal and asked to place it on the water or land.

4. (EVALUATE) APPROX. 5 MIN.
   Whole group share out: What is an animal that lives on the land? What is an animal that lives in the water?

5. (CLOSURE) APPROX 5 MIN.
   On the back page of their science notebook, students will paste their animal and label it. They may also color and draw the habitat around it.

6. (EXTEND) AT ANOTHER TIME
   Complete a class mural of the habitat and the students place a picture/draw pictures of animals in the habitat.

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