

**Target Grade: 3**

**Standard 2:** Students will understand that organisms depend on living and non-living things within their environment.

**Objective 1: Students will ...classify living and non-living things in an environment**

1. Identify characteristics of living things (i.e. growth, movement, reproduction)
2. Identify characteristics of non-living things
3. Classify living and non-living things in an environment.

**Materials:** cards with names and pictures of river community inhabitants, clothespins, butcher paper, markers or crayons.

**Lesson plan:**

**Wild Animal Scramble**

You will create (or have students help) create small notecards with the names and pictures of different biotic and abiotic parts of the river community on the cards.

After all the cards are created, you will have the students use the cards in a guessing game.

1. Have the students make a list of some of the different abiotic and biotic things they saw in the Logan River community near Stokes Nature Center.
2. Using words from their list, either make cards yourself or have students draw or cut out pictures from magazines so there are enough cards for every student to have one card. Each student should make a card for a different biotic or abiotic thing in the river community.
3. Once all the cards are made, shuffle them and clothespin a card to the back of each student's shirt so that they can not see it, but other students can. The students then have to ask each other questions to try and figure out who or what they have on pinned to their back. They can only ask yes or no questions, but they can ask as many questions as needed. Give the students a few minutes to try and figure out who they are.
4. To review the concept of abiotic and biotic, have the students separate themselves into a biotic group and abiotic group.

**River Mural**

1. On a large sheet of paper, draw an outline of the river. Have each student contribute to the mural, drawing something they saw on the field trip.
2. Display the mural for the whole class or school to see!

River Community member examples:

Biotic: moose, beaver, kingfisher, mayfly, caddisfly, crane fly, dogwood, river birch, moss, grass, dipper, cutthroat trout, whitefish, flowers, snail, butterfly, cottonwood, water strider.

Abiotic: wind, rock, sun, water, shade, dirt, rain, snow