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ARKANSAS

# Educating The Future

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### Introduction

If we are looking at really becoming a sustainable nation and improving the environment that we live in then we need to focus on educating the future generations. I spent my summer creating a sustainable education program for campers at Camp War Eagle (CWE). CWE is a camp located in Rogers, Arkansas that serves children from age 7 through 17. I was an extreme serve counselor at CWE in the nature center. I would teach morning instructionals, lead games and activities, and take care of the gardens and animals in our nature center. My objective was to encourage campers to acquire knowledge of environmental processes, how to be sustainable, and help them develop skills to understand and investigate environmental issues.



Instructing the kids on what they would be doing in iNature.



Kids trying to identify components of a soil sample.

### Methods

I created lesson plans and activities that were used to teach the campers. Such as:

- iNature
  - Campers created a one-minute-long public service announcement
  - In the announcement the campers had to address an environmental issue and ways to improve it
- Eco-Jenga
  - A giant game of Jenga that teaches campers about interactions among species in an ecosystem
- Soil Sampling Guessing Game
  - Campers learned about different components of soils and how to identify soils
  - Learned the advantages and disadvantages of certain soil types



My Coworker playing EcoJenga

### Eco Jenga

**OBJECTIVES:** Learn the different levels of the ecosystem.

**Rules:** Stack the blocks to form the ecosystem.

Spin the spinner and remove the block that it lands on. If someone's spin lands on the Eco-card spot, that person must draw a card and do what the card instructs.

They must pull the blocks out using **ONLY** one hand!!

Repeat this until the ecosystem collapses

The collapse happened because too many blocks were pulled out. We can compare this to our real ecosystem if we lose species our entire ecosystem would eventually collapse. The collapse could happen because of disease, development, or a natural disaster.

### Results

All the kids were diverse that came through the nature center and all had different learning styles. The one thing all these kids had in common is there passion for learning when you give them your attention. Kids also respond better to learning when they are taught with hands-on activities. Another advantage to teaching these kids about the natural world at camp is that they got to spend their entire session outside exploring and connecting with nature.

### Discussion

This project was important in understanding the social and natural domains. I was able to use the environment to my advantage when teaching kids about the natural world. I was able to educate the future generation and I looked at the history of the problems. I also got to teach the campers about the basics of sustainability. They were able to understand the different domains and apply them to their lives.