

Garden

July 2026

In the Garden

There will be no garden class during our short first week of July. As our strawberry harvest slows, raspberries, blueberries & blackberries are ripening. Our pea plants will be composted by the beginning of the month but pole bean plants are growing in their place. Our first bush beans have sprouted as well, and we will fill in empty spaces with more seeds. New Zealand spinach is growing well and the children will be sampling these during garden classes or on the playgrounds. We will also work on planting more brassicas & chard (those planted in the toddler, twos & annex gardens are growing nicely & we'll continue to enjoy sampling them). Our flower gardens are blooming nicely and we will continue enjoy new flowers (and pollinators) as summer goes on. We will finish harvesting garlic & oregano this month, and we'll harvest spearmint as well: please keep your eyes out for some by the front door to take home.

In the classroom: *we will focus on habitats all month*

July 7-10 – Grassland

Activities

- Discuss grassland habitats. Ask children what skills/traits an animal might need to live in those habitats, looking at grassland & animal photos (prints & magazines)
- Identify cut-outs of animals that live in a grassland from a larger pool of animals
- Safari floor puzzle (Annex/preschool)
- Animal specimen jars & armadillo shell
- Practice trumpeting like an elephant
- Elephant craft with shapes (2s & Tods)

Vocabulary

- Grassland, savanna, prairie
- Antelope, gazelle, bison
- Giraffe, wildebeest, zebra
- Elephant, rhino, cheetah
- Termite, anteater, armadillo
- Rhea, ostrich, vulture
- Lion, coyote, grasshopper

Objectives

- Describe a grassland habitat
- State traits of some grassland animals
- Identify cut-outs of animals that live in a grassland from a larger pool of animals

July 14-17 — Forest

Activities

- Read Sounds of the Forest (Oregon forests)
- Name animals found in book in English
- Identify cut-outs of animals that live in a forest from a larger pool of animals
- Investigate specimen of animals & tree parts from forests
- Forest animal coloring sheets
- Redwood stacking puzzle with numbers & animals found in a redwood forest

Objectives

- Discern smaller habitats within a larger habitat
- Identify animals found in a forest habitat
- Investigate forest animals & plants

Vocabulary

- Forest
- Squirrel
- Deer
- Bear
- Owl, woodpecker, eagle, bird
- Snake
- Otter
- Beaver
- Bee
- Butterfly
- Mouse
- Salamander
- Habitat

July 21-24 — Water

Activities

- Observe photos of bodies of water; discuss similarities & differences
- Sing “Baby Beluga;” book A Cool Drink of Water
- Identify cut-outs of animals that live in or near water from a larger pool of animals
- Magnetic fishing
- Coloring pages: Pacific Ocean animals

Objectives

- Name various types of bodies of water
- Identify animals that live in or near water
- Use large motor skills to play a fishing game

Vocabulary

- River, lake, ocean, creek, swamp, oasis
- Fish, whale, shark, coral, shell, frog, octopus, duck, tadpole, dragonfly, alligator, dolphin
- seaweed, reed

July 28-31 — Desert

Activities

- Paraphrase books: Desert Giant & Deserts
- View desert photos & discuss desert habitats
- Identify cut-outs of animals that live in a desert from a larger pool of animals
- Investigate desert animal & plant specimen
- Sand painting craft
- Listen to Tuareg music of the Sahara

Objectives

- Share traits of a desert
- Name animals that might be found in a desert
- Use fine motor skills to create a sand painting

Vocabulary

- Saguaro
- Elf owl, hawk, carpenter bird
- Scorpion, centipede
- Bat, butterfly, beetle
- Flower, fruit, rib
- Lizard, termite, snake
- Coyote, javelina
- Camel, mouse

Swallowtail on one of our milkweed plants



Using sticks as percussion instrument in a tipi

