Alligator Eyes

Grade Level: 3-5

Time: one week

Concept: Observation of life on a river in Florida

Objectives: Students will:
1. use good listening skills.
2. brainstorm descriptive information.
3. research Florida river life.
4. create a Florida river dictionary.
5. draw a map.

Materials:
Computer, Internet sites
Books on Florida
Guest speakers
Brochures on Florida Rivers from Tourist Information Center
Post Cards showing scenes from Florida Rivers
Chart paper, markers, crayons, construction paper,
Picture dictionary template
Florida Rivers 2001 poster

Background: Oonawassee Summer is a fiction book written about the life on a Florida river. Oonawassee River is a fictitious river with all the “real” life of a Florida river.

Procedures:
Initiating Activity: Ask the students what would they see if they floated down a Florida river? Make a list of their answers.

Strategies:
1. Read Oonawassee Summer. Discuss and list what is seen and done along the Oonawassee River.
2. Research by book, Florida Rivers 2001 poster or computer, life on a Florida river for more background information.
3. Using the alligator as the observer, have the students write what it would be like to be the alligator floating down the river. What would it see, what would it do, and how would it behave?
4. Share the students’ stories in oral readings.
5. Show the students the glossary in Oonawassee Summer. Have them create a picture glossary using the things that were seen as they floated down the river in their writing. Publish this in a book.
6. Create a map of the Oonawassee River. Include a legend, compass rose, and a scale.
Culminating Activity:
Have the students write the author, Melissa Forney, and describe their understanding of the river life. Also, have students write thank you notes to the speakers who come into speak to the class.

Evaluation:
1. Observation
2. Writings
3. Picture glossary
4. Letter

National Geography Standards:
Standard 1: How to use maps and other geographic representations, tools, and technologies to acquire, process, and report information from a spatial perspective.
Standard 2: How to use mental maps to organize information about people, places, and environments in a spatial context.
Standard 3: How to analyze the spatial organization of people, places, and environments on Earth’s surface.

Sunshine State Standards:
LA.A.1.3: uses the reading process effectively.
LA.B.1.3.1: organizes information before writing according to the type and purpose of writing.
LA.B.1.3.3: produces a final edited document.
LA.B.2.3: writes to communicate ideas and information effectively.
SS.B.2.1.1: identifies some physical and human characteristics of places.
SS.B.2.3: understands the interactions of people and the physical environment.
SC.D.2.3.3: knows the positive and negative consequences of human action on the Earth’s systems.
SC.G.2.3.1: learns that some resources are renewable and some are nonrenewable.

Resources:
Speakers on rivers and life on the river. Suggested areas: Florida Freshwater Fish and Wildlife Commission, local state water district, or parent.

Web Sites:
http://www.dogpile.com
http://www.askjeeves.com
http://www.northernlight.com
http://www.nationalgeographic.com

Florida Segments
http://www.ncrc.nps.gov/rtca/nri/Fl.htm

Rivers and Streams Index
http://geography.about.com/cs/riversandstreams/index.htm