

Adaptive Snake Curriculum for Tactile Learners (PreK - Grade 6)

Unit 1: Introduction to Snakes

Objective:

Students will learn what snakes are, including their basic anatomy and behaviors.

Sensory Materials:

- Weighted snake plush for tactile engagement during storytime
- Snake slime kit for hands-on texture exploration

Lesson Plan:

1. PreK - Grade 2

- **Activity:** Introduce snakes with a simple, illustrated book about their habitats and anatomy. Students can hold the weighted snake plush for comfort and sensory grounding during storytime.
- **Discussion:** Talk about snake behaviors, like slithering and tongue-flicking, and allow students to ask questions.
- **Hands-On:** Let students play with snake slime, describing it as the texture of a snake's skin. This will help them understand snakes' unique feel and appearance.

2. Grade 3 - Grade 6

- **Activity:** Read a short informational passage on snake anatomy and their different movement types (e.g., slithering, sidewinding).
- **Discussion:** Discuss how snakes move without legs and the unique parts of their anatomy, like scales and fangs. Allow tactile learners to hold the weighted snake plush for sensory comfort.
- **Hands-On:** Use snake slime to simulate snake skin, and discuss the function of snake scales, inviting students to feel and manipulate the slime to imagine what snake scales might feel like.

Unit 2: Types of Snakes and Their Habitats

Objective:

Students will learn about different types of snakes (e.g., pythons, cobras, rattlesnakes) and where they live.

Sensory Materials:

- Weighted snake plush for grounding during lessons
- Wooden snake models for painting different species

Lesson Plan:

1. PreK - Grade 2

- **Storytelling:** Share a story or show images of different types of snakes, focusing on colors and habitats.
- **Activity:** Hold or wrap the weighted snake plush around the shoulders or lap to simulate a snake's texture.
- **Hands-On:** Provide wooden snake models for students to paint based on a specific snake species, like a green python or a striped king snake, encouraging them to think about colors and patterns.

2. Grade 3 - Grade 6

- **Reading & Discussion:** Provide information on snake species, highlighting venomous vs. non-venomous snakes and their preferred habitats.
 - **Activity:** Discuss habitats like deserts, rainforests, and wetlands. Use the weighted plush to allow students to visualize snake size and feel.
 - **Hands-On:** Assign a specific snake type (e.g., coral snake, rattlesnake) for students to paint on wooden models, replicating patterns and colors that help the snake camouflage in its habitat.
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Unit 3: Interesting Snake Facts and Dissection

Objective:

Students will learn fascinating facts about snakes, such as their ability to shed skin, venom production, and hunting methods.

Sensory Materials:

- Weighted snake plush for focus and comfort
- Gelatin snake dissection kit to explore internal anatomy

Lesson Plan:

1. PreK - Grade 2

- **Storytime:** Share fun facts about snakes, like how they shed their skin or use their tongue to “smell.”
- **Activity:** Allow students to hold the weighted plush while listening to encourage sensory engagement.
- **Hands-On:** Using snake slime, let students mimic how snakes shed by stretching or breaking apart the slime, simulating the texture of shedding.

2. Grade 3 - Grade 6

- **Discussion:** Share in-depth facts on snake venom, scales, and sensory organs.
- **Hands-On:** Guide students through a gelatin snake dissection kit, identifying basic parts like the stomach and “venom sacs” (simulated). Encourage students

to feel and examine each part, comparing it to what they've learned about snake behavior.

Assessment and Reflection

Objective:

Reflect on the learning experience and reinforce comprehension of snakes through creative expression.

Assessment:

- **PreK - Grade 2:** Draw a snake in its habitat or share their favorite snake fact.
- **Grade 3 - Grade 6:** Write a short description of a chosen snake species, explaining its habitat and one interesting fact.

Reflection Activity:

Encourage students to hold the weighted snake plush and share their favorite part of learning about snakes, enhancing comfort during their sharing time.