

One Small Square

Developed by: Kim Slade 2007 WFTOTT

Discipline / Subject: Multi-disciplinary

Topic: Observation

Grade Level: 3-10

Resources / References / Materials Teacher Needs:

- Book *One Small Square: Arctic Tundra* by Donald M. Silver
- 4 twelve inch rulers
- Liquid Nails
- Yarn or lanyard (optional)
- Magnifying glass (optional)
- Copies of “One Small Square Pictures”

Lesson Summary:

After making One Small Square frames, students will explore habitats by taking a close look at one small square of Earth at a time.

Standard’s Addressed: (Alaska)

1. Science A: Science as Inquiry and Process - a student should understand and be able to apply the processes and applications of scientific inquiry.
2. Science G:3: History and Nature of Science – develop an understanding that scientific knowledge is ongoing and subject to change as new evidence becomes available through experimental and/or observational confirmation
3. English/Language Arts B: a student should be a competent and thoughtful reader, listener, and viewer of literature, technical materials, and a variety of other information.

Learning objectives:

Students will:

- Make observations
- Use a different perspective to view the world around them

Assessment:

Teacher Observation/Check written journaling

Procedural Activities

1. Make the frames by gluing ends together (see picture) – lining up corners – to make a square
2. Share the book *One Small Square: Arctic Tundra* with the students - talk about looking at their surroundings from a different perspective – looking at things in a smaller area (inside the frame) in order to see more details - instead of looking at the big picture
3. Take students outside and use the square to look at their surroundings – lay it on the ground
4. Next, allow students to choose an area for themselves
5. Have students make observations about what they see
6. Students should journal – by writing and sketching the details they see
7. Discuss what each student observed, allowing them to share and compare
8. Take a look at the “One Small Square Pictures” - have students discuss what they see from the pictures taken along the Iditarod Trail – Ask: *What do you see in each picture? What can you tell about the place each was taken? Could the same picture be found in your area (neighborhood, city, state)? Compare and contrast the pictures with your journaling.*

Materials Students Need:

- One Small Square frame
- Copies of “One Small Square Pictures”

Technology Utilized to Enhance Learning:

- www.iditarod.com
- www.amazon.com - to order books

Other Information

Check out the other books in this series.

Modifications for special learners/ Enrichment Opportunities

- Pick an area for students to use their frames – discuss with student what you want them to observe – this will help them concentrate on the details of what they see