

Making the Grade: School Program Menu for 2nd Grades 2025-2026



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The following is a list of presentations offered to second grade classes in Jasper County. This is not a complete list, and for other options or questions about a program, please contact the naturalists. We work with teachers to fit our programming with their curriculum!

- All programs are free and materials will be provided unless otherwise noted.
- Although descriptions are for in-class, all programs can be adapted for outdoor locations.
- Please call or email at the beginning of the school year to guarantee your desired day and time.
- Plan for 30-40 minutes per program.
- Have your students come up with a list of questions for the naturalists before the scheduled program time.
- Please plan to sit with your class and enjoy the presentation along with them!

From Tadpole to Frog

The naturalist will use storybooks, pictures and puppets to demonstrate the life cycle of a frog. The class will learn how to identify a few common frogs in Iowa by sight and sound. Live examples of tadpoles and frogs will be brought for observation, if available.

***2-LS4-1**



Pond Creatures

Students will be introduced to some common, yet very strange, creatures found in Iowa ponds. Using books, pictures, and models, the naturalist will explain life cycles and adaptations of fish, frogs, dragonflies, turtles and beavers. We will create a pond food web and depending on time allowed, students will work in small groups to classify animals.

***2-LS4-1**



Incredible Insects

Discover how insects are different from other animals and learn about some of the amazing things they do. We will focus on how insects change through their lives and how some insects are helpful or harmful in the environment.

***2-LS4-1**



Endangered, Extinct, Extirpated

Students will learn why we classify animals into these groups and what that means. We will focus on past and present animals in Iowa, recognizing the diversity of species impacted. Students will learn some success stories in Iowa, when animals were taken off the endangered species list, and why this occurred.

***2-LS4-1**

Tallgrass Prairie

The naturalist will explain what tallgrass prairie is and the importance it had for wildlife in Iowa. Using pictures, we'll cover some of the westward expansion history and what living on the prairie was like. A life-size poster of prairie roots will help demonstrate how tough these plants are!

***2-LS2-2,
2-LS4-1**



Water Water Everywhere

The amount of water on Earth will be demonstrated to the class and we will review the water cycle through a diagram and cloud experiment. Students will follow a raindrop through the water cycle in an interactive game; no two drops will follow the same path. A discussion of problems in Iowa with water pollution and erosion will be led. Students will then brainstorm ways we can help protect our waterways. At the end of the program, students will begin a creative writing project that tells their raindrop's journey.

***2-PS1 -4, 2-ESS2-3**



Habitats Field Trip

Jacob Krumm Nature Preserve on the eastern edge of Jasper County offers a variety of different habitats to explore. Students will have a chance to discover the diversity of plants and animals that live within the lake, forest, and prairie while participating in a variety of different activities.

***2-LS2-1, 2-LS2-2, 2-
LS4-1, 2-ESS1-1, 2-
ESS2-2**

