



Introduction to Outdoor Skills in Iowa: A Teaching Model

<http://www.iowadnr.gov/Education/ForTeachers/ClassroomResources.aspx>

This module, offered by the Iowa DNR, is designed to acquaint students and educators with foundational information about Iowa's natural resources; basics for recreating safely in the outdoors, dress, ethics; and human interactions with natural resources.

Activities Include:

A Look at the Land: Students trace the path of a small plane crossing Iowa as they listen to an essay written by the pilot. They discuss the author's description of the Iowa landscape and then describe their perception of Iowa's landscape. Students consider different types of values associated with natural resources while becoming familiar with navigational tools (map and compass) and demonstrate their ability to use them to navigate successfully.

Iowa's Natural Areas: Students use the Internet and local resources to research natural resources in their area as they learn about the basic types of natural areas found in Iowa. Values associated with natural resources and the ways humans interact with them are considered along with individual responsibility toward natural resources.

Safety and Ethics: Students discuss different aspects of safety and ethics in the outdoors. They prepare an emergency plan, emergency kit, and set of ethics for outdoor activities taking into consideration the safety, comfort, and enjoyment of participants.

Planning a Trip: Students plan for an outdoor activity while becoming familiar with basic safety and dress guidelines for outdoor activities and what to do in an emergency.

Map and Compass: Students use the sun and stars to determine general directions and compare that to the use of navigational tools including maps and a compass.