

Lesson Title: Coastal Plain-Mountain Disjunctions

Grade levels: Grades 3-5

Applicable SOL:

- Science: 3.1(investigations)
4.1(investigations)
5.1(investigations)
- English: 3.7 (using reference materials)
3.9 (writing for a variety of purposes)
4.7 (writing for a variety of purposes)
4.9 (using information resources)
5.7 (writing for a variety of purposes)
5.9 (using research resources)

Materials:

- Document with Coastal Plains and Mountain Disjunctions
- Journals
- Virginia Plant Atlas <http://www.vaplantatlas.org/>

Procedure:

Building Supporting Knowledge: (10 to 15 minutes)

Review plant adaptations, and why plants naturally live in particular habitats to which they are adapted.

Main Lesson: (60 minutes—20 minutes discussion, 40 minutes to write)

1. Show students the Coast Plains-Mountain Disjunctions document. (You may want to project it for discussion, or have enough copies for all to see one clearly.) Have discourse about these particular plant adaptations and habitats. Both are very adapted to living in the coastal plains, yet both also oddly appear in a location in a mountainous region. These are very different regions. How did these plants get there? Have students brainstorm possibilities.
2. Assignment: Choose one of the plants we discussed. Write that plant's story. How did it get to the mountain habitat, and how does it naturally survive there? (Explain that they are creating this story---making a hypothesis about how these events happened.)

Follow-up:

- Publish and present the stories.
- Have students do follow-up research about these and other disjunctions.

Assessment Opportunities:

1. Discourse gives opportunities for informal assessment.
2. The written stories also give assessment opportunities, especially in the area of writing.

Coastal Plain-Mountain Disjunctions

Floating Bladderwort (*Utricularia radiata*)



The Floating Bladderwort is adapted to living in slow-moving streams and floodplain pools. It generally lives in the coastal plains, but also is found in one Valley and Ridge County in Virginia.



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Saltmarsh Bulrush (*Bolboschoenus robustus*)

The Saltmarsh Bulrush is found in tidal marshes and brackish water in the coastal plains; however, it is also found in Smyth County, which is in the Ridge and Valley Region!



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