

Fox in the Front

Overview: Students practice good techniques for viewing wildlife by trying to follow a “Gray Fox” without being seen or heard.

Goal: Students understand that it is important to be quiet and move slowly when wildlife viewing.

Time: 5 minutes or less, use to get from one place to another in a fun way.

Materials: None

Procedure:

1. Ask students to tell you what it is important to keep in mind when trying to watch wildlife (be quiet, move slow, etc.)
2. Explain that you are going to be a Gray Fox and they are people out trying to get a good look at the Gray Fox. You will be out in front minding your own business, and if you hear a sound or see someone move out of the corner of your eye, you will turn around and look at them.
3. When you turn around, they must freeze. If anyone is caught still moving or making noise, they have to go to the back of the group. Make it clear that they should be quietly sneaking up on you, not running. The goal is to get a good look at the fox from a safe distance; they are not trying to tag you.
4. Get a bit of a head start, and begin acting like a fox, sniffing the air, running from place to place, scratching the ground, pretending to chew on a stick, whatever. Signal the students when you are ready for them to come closer.
5. If you hear a sound or see a student making large movements, turn around. If anyone continues to move or make noise, point to him or her and tell them to go to the back.
6. You should be moving forward on the trail as you play. Continue until you reach your destination.