Fantastic Flora and Fauna

Fantastic Flora and Fauna is a nature program that integrates the Virginia Standards of Learning (Science SOL 1.4, 1.5, 1.7, 1.8) for first-grade students. The program begins with a Native American tale in a story circle in the Horticulture Center, then moves outdoors for the following three-station rotation.

Flora Station
Students visit the garden to learn how plants, like the sunflower, develop from a tiny seed. Flower parts are examined along with the important role of bees and other pollinators in fruit and seed production. Students will become pollinators as they move pollen from one flower to another in a pollination game.

Fauna Station
Why do some animals have antlers and some animals have shells? Students will explore a variety of physical characteristics of animals at our touch table. Students will learn what animals need to survive and thrive, and also play an interactive animal game.

Forest Walk Station
A woodland hike through the Virginia Native Plant Garden introduces students to tree identification, starting with the differences between deciduous and evergreen trees. Students will learn how leaves and other tree parts decompose to form soil. While in the forest, students will witness first hand how trees change throughout the seasons.