

Using This Teaching Kit

What's Inside

This teaching kit is a complete set of tools designed to help teachers engage students in the topic of biodiversity in our forests. The kit includes an overview of the current science and knowledge on biodiversity and a series of eight activity-based lessons that can be delivered inside or outside the classroom.

Curriculum Links

We have designed this teaching kit so you can use the lessons, ideas and activities to celebrate the forest environment with your students, and address your curriculum requirements at the same time.

The teaching kit includes the key biodiversity-related learning outcomes within the Pan-Canadian Science Framework, a nationally recognized curriculum document designed to guide the development of science curriculum across Canada. The lessons in this kit address the learning outcomes of this framework, for student skills, knowledge and attitudes.

Each lesson can be easily adapted to reflect specific regional or provincial curriculum requirements and enhance basic science learning. Within the activities there are opportunities for you and your students to take direct action to conserve and maintain biodiversity in your own community as part of the learning experience.

Grade Levels

The kit meets specific learning outcomes on biodiversity-related topics in Grades 4, 6 and 7. But the information and the lessons can easily be applied with students in Grades 1 to 7.

You will also find that the lessons complement social studies learning, offer links to language arts for expression and communications skills, and provide extensions that touch on a variety of curriculum expectations.

Why a Teacher Should Use This Kit

The kit is a full set of teaching tools designed to help you achieve specific learning outcomes, while exploring biodiversity and related critical environmental issues with your students.

In each of the lessons you will find:

- **Summary:** an introduction to the topic and the type of activity
- **Activity Information:** suggested grade level, subject, estimated duration and suggested materials
- **Learning Outcomes:** curriculum expectations
- **Teacher Background:** information on the lesson topic
- **Procedure:** detailed instructions required to teach the activity
- **Extensions:** variations to the lessons to help explore biodiversity in depth

We have also included links to Web sites in some of the lesson plans for either your needs or your students' research.

Instruction Key

The icons and symbols in this teaching kit will allow you to quickly identify lessons that have:



a group or discussion activity



a performing activity



a writing and recording activity



field investigation



extensions