

Using This Teaching Kit

This teaching kit, the fifth in the Canada's Forests series, is designed to help teachers explore with their students the importance of Canada's forests in the survival of wildlife species. The introduction explains how a species is designated as at risk in Canada and provides teachers with useful background information to help deliver the nine lessons that follow.


Throughout the kit there are Web site addresses and other contact information so that teachers and students can explore species at risk in their region, their province or throughout the country.

Target Audience

This kit is designed to support grades and courses with the best curriculum links to species at risk. Therefore, the activities focus on grades 4, 6 and 7 (elementary cycles 2 and 3; sec. I), and address ecosystem and diversity of life learning outcomes. There are also senior activities aimed at grades 10, 11 and 12 (sec. III, IV and V), which support science, environmental science and geography learning outcomes across the country.

Instruction Key


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

 group discussion

 presentation/performance

 writing/recording

 field investigation

 extensions

Curriculum Links

This kit allows students to expand their knowledge about species at risk in Canada and understand how forest ecosystems are a key to the survival of so many. As the kit was developed, provincial curriculum guidelines were reviewed and examined so that the activities would reflect as many learning outcomes, objectives and expectations as possible.

The kit uses learning outcomes from the *Pan-Canadian Protocol for Collaboration on School Curriculum – The Common Framework of Science Learning Outcomes*, a nationally recognized science curriculum document on which many provincial and territorial curricula are based. Each activity addresses the learning outcomes in this framework for student skills, knowledge and attitudes.

Although the activities were designed primarily to augment science learning, the lessons also emphasize exploration in language arts, social studies, drama, geography, visual arts and other key curriculum opportunities. In particular, the senior level activities are focused on geography learning outcomes and will also mesh with provincial curricula across Canada.

Note: These lessons and activities are linked to the Pan-Canadian curriculum in order to have one national reference. You will find, however, that they are easily linked to your own provincial or territorial curriculum, although they may work at grade levels other than what we have identified. Please feel free to adapt and augment the lessons to better meet your own curriculum and grade requirements.

Kit Organization

The kit provides a full set of teaching tools designed to help you achieve specific learning outcomes, while exploring the reasons why some species are considered at risk in Canada. In each of the hands-on, interactive lessons you will find:

Summary: introduces the topic or theme and the type of activity

Activity Information: provides the grade level, subject headings, estimated duration and suggested materials

Learning Outcomes: highlights key curriculum links

Teacher Background: additional information on the lesson topic

Procedure: detailed instructions required to teach the activity

Extensions: follow-up activities related to the activity.