

# Teaching Resources

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The Web sites, publications and videos listed here contain a range of facts and opinions. Their inclusion does not necessarily signify CFA endorsement.

\* *Boreal Leadership Council members with the Canadian Boreal Initiative*  
[www.borealcanada.ca](http://www.borealcanada.ca)

## **www.borealcanada.ca**

*Canadian Boreal Initiative (CBI)*

Established in 2003, CBI is the convener and secretariat of the Boreal Leadership Council\* whose founding members include conservation organizations, Aboriginal people, industry and others. CBI connects science, policy, and activities in the boreal; this site provides many reports and links.

## **www.borealbirds.org**

*Boreal Songbird Initiative*

A comprehensive guide to 260 boreal birds; in-depth guide to 30 birds. Includes interactive migration maps.

## **www.bsc-eoc.org/library.html**

*Library of Bird Studies Canada*

Includes two reports on boreal birds.

## **http://www.taiga.net/index.html**

*Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Society*

This community network based in Whitehorse, Yukon provides links to reports, boreal organizations and events.

## **http://www.taiga.net/projectcaribou/index.html**

*Yukon Department of the Environment*

*Project Caribou* features a wealth of information on caribou including the woodland variety native to many parts of the boreal. Features curriculum links for some jurisdictions, 24 caribou bingo cards, downloadable sound file of caribou grunts and links to other caribou resources. For more caribou material, check out *The Boreal Caribou Research Program* at [www.deer.rr.ualberta.ca/caribou/bcrp.htm](http://www.deer.rr.ualberta.ca/caribou/bcrp.htm)

## **www.ducks.ca\***

*Ducks Unlimited Canada*

For 67 years this national non-profit group has worked with landowners, governments, NGOs and corporations to conserve wetlands and associated habitats. Click on *Resources for You* to link to:

- *Ask the Expert* (post your boreal wetland questions),
- interactive North American waterfowl migration maps,
- free bilingual teacher resources and student kits,
- information on classroom programs in your area.

Select *Wetlands and Waterfowl Conservation*, then *Conservation Programs*, then *Boreal Forest*. Senior students can use the *Search* option (keyword: boreal).

## **www.spaceforspecies.ca**

*Canadian Space Agency, the Canadian Wildlife Federation, the Canadian Wildlife Service, and the Canada Centre for Remote Sensing*

Initiated by Canadian Astronaut Bob Thirsk, this interactive portal is aimed at Intermediate- to Senior-level students. All materials required by users are available on the site and are "meticulously prepared with young readers in

mind." Track the migratory boreal bird Peregrine Falcon (subspecies *Falco peregrinus anatum*). To track the Lesser Scaup visit Bird Studies Canada at <http://www.bsc-eoc.org/lpbo/lpwwrfscauptrack.html>

## **www.borealforest.org**

*Lakehead University Faculty of Forestry*

This site contains a wealth of information on the global boreal, especially the Ontario region.

## **www.epals.com**

*Multi-partner Organization*

An on-line school community where one can link with classrooms in and outside the boreal throughout Canada, Russia, Alaska, Finland, Norway, Sweden and the Baltic States.

## **http://plasma.nationalgeographic.com/mapmachine/conservationmaps.html**

*National Geographic Society*

This portal presents various maps of the boreal relevant to precipitation and land use.

## **www.learnforestry.com**

*BC Forest Educators' Network*

This site contains forest-related lesson plans, publication and film resource lists, and hyperlinks.

## **www.modelforest.net**

*Canadian Model Forest Network*

This arm of the Canadian Forest Service is involved in conservation projects, international model forest partnerships, Aboriginal initiatives, and the measurement of Local Level Indicators in the study of sustainability practices. In *Find Out More About*, choose *Boreal Forest* for news and events, publications and projects. Learn more about boreal projects in the Foothills, Manitoba and Lake Abitibi Model Forests.

## **www.borealcentre.ca**

*Alberta Centre for Boreal Studies*

Includes fact sheets, reports and links, plus a citizen's guide to boreal issues. *Alternative Futures: Alberta's Boreal Forest at the Crossroads* contains 125 colour photos, maps and graphs (\$22.95).

## **www.cpaws.ca\***

*Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS)*

This national non-profit conservation group is devoted to protecting Canada's wilderness. Under *Special Programs* select *Boreal Forest*, then *Boreal Action Centre* for resources and information about specific campaigns (e.g., Quebec's Dumoine River). Choose *Education* for lessons and activities, five-minute field trips, and a list of regional CPAWS offices for links to teachers in your area.

## **www.natureconservancy.ca**

*Nature Conservancy Canada (NCC)*

Through fundraising, the NCC purchases and manages land to ensure a natural legacy for future generations. To view boreal habitat-protected areas such as Beavertail Creek, Alberta Choose *NCC Projects*, then use the *Search* sidebar to select *Forests*.

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### **www.globalforestwatch.org**

*Global Forest Watch*

This organization provides reports on various aspects of the boreal and Canada's general biodiversity. Select *Interactive Maps* to see world boreal maps.

### **www.sierraclub.ca**

*Sierra Club of Canada*

Use the *Search* option for maps and resources relevant to the boreal.

### **www.naturecanada.ca**

*Nature Canada (formerly Canadian Nature Federation)*

Using the *Search* option will provide links to resources on the boreal.

### **www.environmentalsociety.ca**

*Saskatchewan Environmental Society*

In *Resources*, choose *Forest* for units and activity booklets from their lending library, such as "Exploring the Boreal Forest" and "From the Ashes: Fire's Role in Renewal", both for Junior to Intermediate levels. (Free on loan, but shipping costs must be paid.)

### **www.wwf.ca**

*World Wildlife Fund Canada*

From sidebar, choose *Kids and Teachers Site*. Students can select *Boreal Forest 101* for information and maps on the boreal biome. Teachers can select *Teacher's Corner* for resources.

### **www.hww.ca**

*Hinterland Who's Who - Canadian Wildlife Service and Canadian Wildlife Federation*

This site provides detailed fact sheets on many Canadian species, timely articles and actions citizens can take to help wildlife. Under the section *For Educators*, there are 29 lesson plans.

### **www.canadianforestry.com**

*Canadian Forestry Association*

Features information on forests, careers in forestry, other teaching kits like this one and supplementary lessons.

### **www.canadian-forests.com**

*Canadian Forests*

A Web site on forestry in Canada including links to all federal, provincial and territorial governments, the forest industry, service and supply companies, associations and NGOs, consultants, education and research, forestry news and employment opportunities.

### **http://npsc.forest.ca**

*National Forest Strategy Coalition*

This coalition comprises various governmental and non-governmental organizations and individuals working towards a sustainable forest.

### **www.cif-ifc.org**

*Canadian Institute of Forestry*

Information about forestry policy, practices and career opportunities.

### **www.mrn.gouv.qc.ca/forets/quebec/index.jsp**

*Natural Resources of Quebec (predominantly French)*

Contains several reports in PDF format on all aspects of forestry in Quebec.

### **www.envirothon.org**

*Canon Envirothon*

Canon Envirothon is an annual North America-wide competition for Senior-level students among state/provincial teams for recognition and scholarships. Teams demonstrate knowledge of environmental science and natural resource management through hands-on problem-solving activities in the wilderness. The site provides information on how teams can qualify. Recent Envirothon results are also posted on [www.canadianforestry.com](http://www.canadianforestry.com)

### **www.nrcan.gc.ca/cfs-scf**

*Canadian Forest Service*

The mandate of this federal department is to promote sustainability of forests and competitiveness within Canada's forest sector. This site includes many reports on various research projects; the spring 2005 *Viewpoint* newsletter contains various articles on boreal issues.

### **www.fpac.ca**

*Forest Products Association of Canada (FPAC)*

Hosted by Canada's wood, pulp, and paper producers, this portal features reports on the size and nature of various forest types including the boreal, and information on wildlife and sustainable forest management practices. Links to member companies such as Al-pac and Tembec provide access to forest education resources.

### **www.careercruising.com**

*Career Cruising*

Provides information on jobs in forestry and forest management.

### **www.jobfutures.ca**

*Government of Canada*

Use this career-planning tool to learn more about forest-related jobs.

### **www.tbs-sct.gc.ca**

*Treasury Board of Canada*

Find contaminated land and water sites in and around the boreal. Choose *Navigate by Topic A-Z*, then click on *Contamination*. Once in the database, search for contaminated sites by province, territory or electoral district.

## **VIDEOS**

### **L'Erreur boreale (1999)**

*Acpav Inc. (Montreal, QC)*

*T: (514) 849-2281*

*70 minutes*

*French with English subtitles*

This documentary on logging in Quebec's boreal forest features the work of director Robert Monderie and renowned writer-composer Richard Desjardins. The film critiques Quebec's timber supply and forest management agreements, the use of software to permit cutting beyond regenerating capacity, and the government's relationship with the forest industry.

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## Being Caribou (2004)

National Film Board

[www.beingcaribou.com](http://www.beingcaribou.com)

72 minutes

Available from NFB and Mountain Equipment Co-op

\$20 for home use; \$49.95 for school

From April to September 2003, environmentalist Leanne Allison and wildlife biologist Karsten Heuer followed the vast boreal/barrenland Porcupine caribou herd on foot across 1500 km, from Old Crow in the Yukon to the Alaskan calving grounds and back. The NFB states "Dramatic footage and video diaries provide an intimate perspective of an epic expedition. At stake is the herd's delicate habitat, which could be devastated if proposed oil and gas development goes ahead in the herd's calving grounds in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge." Suitable for Intermediate-level students. Contains scenes of a grizzly bear encounter and caribou calving, which may not be suitable for very young viewers.

## King Motion Pictures

[www.thislivingworld.com](http://www.thislivingworld.com)

T: (800) 630-7840

\$24.95 each, shipping included

A series of 18 films on Canadian forests and nature, several featuring boreal content:

*Canada's Forest* (18 minutes)

*The Forests of Canada* (48 minutes)

*Water* (24 minutes)

*Alberta: A Centennial Forest History* (48 minutes)

## Westland Television

[www.westlandtv.com](http://www.westlandtv.com)

T: (250) 353-2697

*Back On Track Productions*

\$89/video

This series of detailed videos focuses on land-use planning in the boreal region around Fort St. John, BC.

## BOOKS AND TEACHING UNITS

### Cool Woods: A Trip Around The World's Boreal Forest

Jane Drake and Ann Love (*Tundra Books*, 2003) ISBN 0887766080

Winner of the Skipping Stones Honor Award in the Ecology and Nature Books category. Readers aged 7 to 9 years are introduced to flora and fauna and the lifecycle of the boreal, from the Siberian Taiga and the Old World forests of Norway to the Boreal Shield of North America and the birch forest of northwest Russia.

### Plants of the Western Boreal Forest and Aspen Parkland

Derek Johnson (*Lone Pine Publishing*, 1996) ISBN 1551050587

A good reference book for higher level elementary and secondary school projects, this field guide provides detailed information about plants in the region extending from Alaska to western Ontario. It includes more than 800 colour photographs, 900 line drawings, clear descriptions of species with intriguing notes about edible plants, Aboriginal uses of plants and origins of plant names.

## Ecosystem Dynamics of the Boreal Forest:

### The Kluane Project

Stanley A. Boutin (*Oxford University Press*, 2001) ISBN 0195133935

A good source of research material for Senior-level biology students, this book describes The Kluane Boreal Forest Ecosystem Project, a 10-year study by nine of Canada's leading ecologists on the impact of the snowshoe hare cycle on plants and fellow vertebrate species in the boreal forest. Researchers traced the plant-herbivore and predator-prey relationships in this ecosystem to determine what drives small mammal population cycles.

## Aboriginal Plant Use in Canada's Northwest

### Boreal Forest

Robin J. Marles, Christina Clavelle, Leslie Monteleone (*UBC Press*, 2000) ISBN 0774807385

A good reference for higher level elementary and secondary school projects, this handbook describes the traditional use of more than 200 different Canadian boreal forest plants significant to the dietary, medical, economic and spiritual well-being of Aboriginal people. It is the result of original ethno-botanical fieldwork in 29 communities across the boreal forest of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, including contributions from over 100 Native Elders.

## The Boreal Kingdom: Life in the Great Northern Forest

Wayne Lynch (*Fitzhenry & Whiteside*, 2001) ISBN 1550416170

Another good project reference for higher level elementary and secondary school students; examines the life of boreal flora and fauna throughout the seasons.

## BOREAL RESEARCH PROJECT IDEAS

1. What is the size of the global boreal forest? What is Canada's place in the global boreal? What are the key boreal issues in various countries and how are they being handled?
2. Research a boreal community. Tell how it relies on the boreal for income, cultural and spiritual activities, recreation, transportation and food.
3. Study the relationship between Aboriginal people and the boreal. What plants and animals play specific roles in various cultural and spiritual traditions? How are Aboriginal people involved in partnerships in forestry, oil and gas, mining and other industries?
4. Learn about industrial activities within the boreal such as mining, peat extraction, forestry, non-timber forest products, petroleum, tourism, hydro-electricity generation, and agriculture.
5. What tree species live in the boreal? How have they adapted to their environment?
6. Why is the boreal a very important place for migratory and non-migratory resident birds?