



Making a difference...together

SEASONAL SAFARI

Educators Guide

Program at a Glance

On this joyful program, we will explore the seasonal changes of the plants and animals around us. Through fun and inspiring nature activities, we will discover how different forest animals prepare for the changing season. Our adventure takes us through a towering old forest where we will help squirrels store food, find a place where bears can hibernate and much more. Your young ones will experience and celebrate the transition of autumn into winter.



In this program, your students will...

- Observe and explore the seasonal changes that are happening in the forest
- Discover that how forest animals prepare for the changing season
- Understand that the forest provides basic needs for many different animals
- Evaluate the impact of our actions on an animals' ability to survive

Curriculum Connections

Our place-based school programs directly relate to BC's Early Learning Framework and the K-5 science curricula. Below you will find some of the learning standards that will be addressed on your program.

BC's Early Learning Framework (Pre-K)

A Sense of Well-Being and Belonging

- Children will develop curiosity, a sense of wonder about, and a deeper connection to the forest and the animals that live there.

Engagement with Others, Materials, and the World

- Children will construct meaning as they explore the forest environment through play and discovery, using all of their senses.

Communication and Literacies

- Children will share their experiences in the forest through song, stories, play and exploration.

Identities, Social Responsibility and Diversity

- The program will foster an appreciation that the forest is a home to animals who have needs similar to our own.
- The program will encourage respect for, and gentle treatment of, the forest and its inhabitants.

Suggested Pre-trip Activities

- Share personal stories and experiences about fall
- Read stories to introduce seasons and local animals in the forest
- Make predictions about what they might see on field trip

Follow-up Activities

- Start a nature logbook for your classroom about seasonal changes
- Start an inquiry project to learn more about local animals preparing for fall/winter
- Explore your school neighborhood looking for signs of fall
- Create a seasonal mural featuring animals at work in the forest

Background Information

Children in Nature

Research has shown that time spent in nature helps children to self-regulate, gain confidence, improve focus, enhance communication and collaboration, and improve mental and physical health, among numerous other benefits. CRD Regional Parks provide us with diverse and beautiful places where children can receive these benefits and deepen their connection to local nature while exploring and learning through play.

Coastal Douglas-fir Forests

Coastal Douglas-fir ecosystems are among the most imperiled coastal ecosystems. Since they occur along the coast, in regions favoured by people, they were some of the first forest types targeted for logging, and cleared for urban and agricultural development. Today, very few older forest ecosystems remain in the Coastal Douglas Fir zone, and those that do are highly fragmented. CRD Regional Parks protect some fine examples of Coastal Douglas Fir ecosystems and offer valuable opportunities to explore and learn about these habitats.

Life in Coastal Douglas-fir Forests

About 100 species of plants are found in Coastal Douglas-fir ecosystems, including trees, shrubs, herbaceous plants, mosses and fungi. These plants, fungi and the associated soil microorganisms form the structure of the forest, and provide habitat and food for animals. Some of the animals found in the Coastal Douglas Fir Ecosystems include large mammals such as black tailed deer, black bear and cougars (in more remote and less urban environments). There is an incredible variety of smaller mammals, bird life, invertebrates and amphibians.

Additional Resources

Teacher References

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