



Making a difference...together

SPOOK-TACULAR

Educators Guide

Program at a Glance

Be prepared to have some spooky fun with your class as they follow park naturalists (in 'wicked' costume) through an ancient forest of towering trees. Along the way, your students will discover some of the animals associated with Halloween spookiness. Animals like bats and spiders are the subject of potentially threatening misconceptions. We will dispel myths, solve riddles and fill the cauldron while encouraging good stewardship along the way. The class stays together as one group for this program.



In this program, your students will...

- Observe and explore the seasonal changes that are happening in the forest
- Identify a diversity of local 'spooky' animals that live in this forest.
- Understand that myths and fears about some forest animals are unfounded
- Discover that all animals have value in the forest ecosystem
- Evaluate the impact of our actions on these 'spooky' animals

Curriculum Connections

Our place based school programs directly relate to the K-5 science curricula. Below you will find some big ideas, curricular competencies and content that will be addressed on your program.

Big Ideas from BC Curriculum:

- Living things have features and behaviors that help them survive in their environment (grade 1)
- Living things are diverse, can be grouped, and interact in their ecosystems (grade 3)
- All living things respond to their environment (grade 4)

Curricular Competencies from BC Curriculum:

- Demonstrate curiosity and sense of wonder about the world
- Demonstrate curiosity and a sense of wonder about the world

- Ask simple questions about familiar objects and events
- Make simple predictions about familiar objects and events
- Make exploratory observations using their senses
- Safely manipulate materials
- Experience and interpret the local environment
- Discuss observations
- Compare observations with predictions through discussion
- Identify simple patterns and connections
- Transfer and apply learning to new situations
- Compare observations with those of others
- Consider some environmental consequences of their actions
- Share observations and ideas orally
- Express and reflect on personal experiences of place

Content from BC Curriculum:

- Structural features of living things in local environment (grade 1)
- Behavioral adaptations (grade 1)
- Names of local plants and animals (grade 1)
- Biodiversity in the local environment (grade 3)
- The ways organisms in ecosystems sense and respond to their environment (grade 4)

Suggested Pre-trip Activities

- Share personal stories and experiences about local forest animals
- Generate a list of what we might think of as “spooky” forest animals
- Choose a “spooky” forest animal and create an imaginary story about it
- Discuss why our myths and fears about some animals might actually be harmful
- Draw pictures about your field trip and make predictions about what they might see

Follow-up Activities

- Revisit your “spooky” forest animal and discuss why they have value in the forest
- Start a nature log book for your classroom about seasonal changes and animals that live in our local forests
- Create a seasonal “spooky” mural, inspired by the program, featuring animals in the forest

Online Resources

Capital Regional District (CRD)

Information about the features, amenities and directions to CRD Regional Parks

<https://www.crd.bc.ca/parks-recreation-culture/parks-trails/find-park-trail>

Habitat Acquisition Trust

Habitat Acquisition Trust is a regional land trust that conserves nature on south Vancouver Island. Learn more about how you can help to conserve local bats, snakes and more.

<https://www.hat.bc.ca/>

NatureWatch

NatureWatch is a community that engages all Canadians in collecting scientific information on nature to understand our changing environment. Find out how you can be a citizen scientist in your local area.

<https://www.naturewatch.ca/>