



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 animals behave as seasons change. Our adventure takes us through the forest where we will role-play the life cycle of a butterfly, listen for the frog's song and much more. Your young ones will experience and celebrate the awakening of the forest in spring.



In this program, your students will...

- Observe and explore the seasonal changes that are happening in the forest
- Discover how some forest animals change as the seasons change
- 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 BC K-5 science curricula. Below you will find some learning standards, big ideas, curricular competencies and content that will be addressed on your program.

BC Early Learning Framework

- Explore using senses (Pre K)
- Actively explore think and reason (Pre K)
- Develop a sense of wonder for the natural environment (Pre K)

Big Ideas from BC Curriculum:

- Plants and animals have observable features (K)
- Daily and seasonal changes affect all living things (K)

Curricular Competencies from BC Curriculum:

- Demonstrate curiosity and sense of wonder about the world
- Demonstrate curiosity and a sense of wonder about the world
- Observe objects and events in familiar contexts
- Ask simple questions 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 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:

- Identify the basic needs of plants and animals (K)
- Recognize seasonal changes in the forest (K)
- Understand changes that some forest animals have to make to accommodate seasonal cycles (K)
- Weather changes (K)
- Adaptations of local plants and animals (K)

Suggested Pre-trip Activities

- Share personal stories and experiences about spring
- Read stories to introduce seasons and animals in the forest
- Make predictions about what they might see on the field trip
- Observe and record seasonal changes in your school yard
- Discuss how to be a respectful visitor in a park

Follow-up Activities

- Start a nature log book for your school yard about seasonal changes
- Walk your school neighborhood looking for signs of spring
- Create a seasonal mural featuring animals of the local 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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