Activity Station Descriptions

FOREST RESOURCES

ACTIVITY	SUMMARY	CURRICULUM LINKS
T.S.I (Tree Scene Investigation)	Students will use their observation skills and tree identification keys to identify different tree species within a Carolinian forest. Students will look at the different parts of the tree to help them determine species type in a fun activity where they become tree detectives.	Grade 6 - Science and Technology (Biodiversity)
Forest Feast	Students will learn about the wide range of foods available in the Carolinian Life Zone and how the First Nations People used them and taught the early explorers to utilize them also.	Grade 6 - Social Studies (First Nations Peoples and European Explorers)
Dwindling Dwellings	Students will learn that human activities have altered the natural environment, reducing and fragmenting the amount of habitat remaining. Reducing the amount and size of habitat has altered and upset the balance and interactions within that ecosystem. Students will look at the implications and act out the effects of a reduced habitat size between a predator and its prey in a forest habitat.	Grade 6 - Science and Technology (Biodiversity) Grade 7 - Science and Technology (Interactions in the Environment)
Harvest Time	Equipment used in the forest harvest industry, such as a sawmill, will be on display for students to observe.	Grade 6 - Social Studies (Canada's Links to the World) Grade 7 - Geography (Natural Resources)
Forest Products	Students will look at a variety of different samples of wood harvested from forests, explore costs of the different types of wood and investigate the different uses for each wood type.	Grade 6 - Social Studies (Canada's Links to the World) Grade 7 - Geography (Natural Resources)
Measuring Up	Students will learn different forestry management skills needed to determine what trees should be harvested from a woodlot. They will learn that cutting trees as a renewable resource requires careful identification, measuring and marking of trees. Students will implement these practices as well as learning what other good forestry practices should be exercised to ensure forest maintains as a healthy, diverse ecosystem with long-term sustainability.	Grade 7 - Geography (Natural Resources)

FOREST ECOSYSTEMS AND INTERACTIONS

ACTIVITY	SUMMARY	CURRICULUM LINKS
Disturbia	Students will visit the site of a forest fire and observe the differences between the disturbed site and a plantation. Students will discuss their observations as well as decide on advantages and disadvantages of forest fires.	Grade 7 - Science and Technology (Interactions in the Environment)
Race to Succession	By viewing a successional timeline, students will explore how habitat characteristics change over time and how changes in habitat affect the types of organisms using it. Students will role play as an animal of the forest and race to their correct phase of succession based on their individual habitat requirements.	Grade 7 - Science and Technology (Interactions in the Environment)
Tune In	Students will use their senses to tune in to their immediate surroundings and develop an awareness of characteristics that help with classification of species.	Grade 6 - Science and Technology (Biodiversity)
Let the Light Shine In	Students will observe two different areas and count the number of seedlings, saplings and trees to determine how sunlight (abiotic factors) affects the diversity of trees and its understory (shade tolerant vs. intolerant)	Grade 7 - Science and Technology (Interactions in the Environment)
Old Growth	Students will learn that a forest is not just trees, but has a diversity of components and layers of life. Students will look at the components of an old growth forest and have to identify them based on the functions they provide to a forest ecosystem.	Grade 6 - Science and Technology (Biodiversity) Grade 6 - Social Studies (First Nations People and European Explorers Grade 7 - Science and Technology (Interactions in the Environment)
Oh! Possum	Students will learn that a forest habitat provides food, water, shelter and space for all living things. Using a common Carolinian mammal, opossum, students will learn the importance of these habitat requirements, its dependence on them for survival and the concept of carrying capacity.	Grade 7 - Science and Technology (Interactions in the Environment)
Don't Be Cavity Free	Students will learn the value and importance of cavity trees to the forest ecosystem. In this activity, students will take a closer look at a cavity tree within the forest and learn how they are formed and who uses them. They will learn that humans have a role to play in valuing and protecting cavities as well as a role in creating human-made cavities.	Grade 7 - Science and Technology (Interactions in the Environment)
Down But Not Out	Through active exploration, students become aware of the importance of fallen timber as providing critical habitat in a forest ecosystem with an emphasis on producers, consumers and decomposers.	Grade 6 - Science and Technology (Biodiversity) Grade 7 - Science and Technology (Interactions in the Environment)
Carolinian Pursuit	Covering topics in all of the themes of Carolinian Forest Festival, students will test their knowledge in a game show style activity. Students will form two teams and answer questions in a competition to see which teams can answer the most correct answers.	Grade 7 - Science and Technology (Interactions in the Environment) Grade 7 - Geography (Patterns in Physical Geography)
A Bird's Eye View	Students get an up close look at the different birds of prey found in the Carolinian Life Zone. They will observe and learn how the different features of these birds help them in their habitat.	Grade 6 - Science and Technology (Biodiversity) Grade 7 - Science and Technology (Interactions in the Environment)

as of June, 2009

CLIMATE CHANGE

ACTIVITY	SUMMARY	CURRICULUM LINKS
Ecological Footprint	Students will actively explore the concept of what is meant by an ecological footprint. Students will represent an average Canadian footprint of 8.8 hectares/person by playing the role of a contributing factor and standing on a representative footprint. Students will brainstorm ways to reduce their ecological footprint by changing their behaviour.	Grade 7 - Science and Technology (Interactions in the Environment)
Carbon Capture	Students learn how trees can play a vital role in trapping and eliminating carbon from the atmosphere, reducing the effects of climate change. Students will find out just how many trees it takes to make their trip to the festival carbon neutral.	Grade 7 - Science and Technology (Interactions in the Environment) Grade 7 - Geography (Natural Resources)
Climate Change Puzzler	Students will learn more about climate change and its effects by solving clues on a crossword puzzle.	Grade 7 - Geography (Patterns in Physical Geography)
Carbon Cycle Shuffle	Students will act out a model of the carbon cycle as a relay race. The model explores the balance of carbon on Earth by manipulating the carbon producers (e.g. cars, homes factories) and carbon sinks (e.g. trees, shrubs, grasses). Sponges will be used to represent carbon and students will play their roles by moving the sponges from the atmosphere into sinks and from sinks back to the atmosphere.	Grade 6 - Science and Technology (Biodiversity) Grade 7 - Science and Technology (Interactions in the Environment)
Urban Umbrella	Students learn about the different energy saving methods that can be done around their home by planting trees. They will learn that trees can make their homes more energy efficient in both winter and summer depending on how the trees are planted. Information and a tree order form will be sent home with each student and can be returned to the local stewardship council if a family decides to plant a tree at their home.	Grade 7 - Geography (Natural Resources)

BIODIVERSITY AND SPECIES AT RISK

ACTIVITY	SUMMARY	CURRICULUM LINKS
It's Good to be Different	Students will look at how the biodiversity within individual species and within communities is important for their resiliency. Students will become different tree species of a forest and discover that having diversity helps maintain health within a forest ecosystem when faced with adverse conditions such as disease and pests.	Grade 6 - Science and Technology (Biodiversity)
Species Invaders	Students will discover how invasive species impact a Carolinian Forest by outcompeting natural species for food and space through a fun adaptation of the game musical chairs.	Grade 6 - Science and Technology (Biodiversity) Grade 7 - Science and Technology (Interactions in the Environment)
Barn Owl Survivor	An interactive, energetic game to teach students the difficulty a species has to survive. Owls try to feed their many owlets while avoiding contaminated food sources and even a low abundance of food. The game will also demonstrate how an owl parent's disability or the number of young being cared for in a nest can affect survival rates. Survival of the fittest is not just a saying!	Grade 7 - Science and Technology (Interactions in the Environment)
Web of Life	Students will learn the importance of biodiversity when they interact as a living component of a forest web. Students will see the implications on the entire forest ecosystem when one species is lost, no matter what the size.	Grade 6 - Science and Technology (Biodiversity)
Slimy or Scaly?	Students get a closer look and feel of the many reptiles and amphibians of the Carolinian Life Zone. Often mistaken and once thought as being in the same class of animals, students will look at the characteristics of these two separate classes and learn how they differ from one another.	Grade 6—Science and Technology (Biodiversity)
Where Have all the Species Gone?	In this game, students learn more about individual species at risk and the many threats that have caused them to become a species at risk.	Grade 6 - Science and Technology (Biodiversity) Grade 7 - Science and Technology (Interactions in the Environment)

STEWARDSHIP AND CONSERVATION

ACTIVITY	SUMMARY	CURRICULUM LINKS
Bird Studies 101	Students will explore the science of bird banding as a research and conservation tool, and will find out why birds are important indicators of ecosystem health. They will also learn bird identification skills and participate in a simulated bird banding exercise.	Grade 6 - Science and Technology (Biodiversity) Grade 7 - Science and Technology (Interactions in the Environment)
Seed to Tree	Students will learn about the entire process of growing trees from seed. Students will collect and test the viability of seed from different seed sources. The final step will be planting the seed in a tray or seed bed.	Grade 6 - Science and Technology (Biodiversity) Grade 7 - Science and Technology (Interactions in the Environment)
Slip Sliding Away	Using water trays, sand, and various modeling materials, students will compare the effects of water erosion on bare soil and soil that is stabilized by planted trees.	Grade 6 - Science and Technology (Biodiversity) Grade 7 - Science and Technology (Interactions in the Environment)
Nature's Drinking Straws	In this activity, students will learn more about the root system of trees. Student will try to move water through a tube to demonstrate how a tree draws water from the soil as well as participate in a relay race to see how much water a tree actually moves within 5 minutes. They will also take a closer look at the importance of tree root systems to filtering our water and protecting our soil.	Grade 7 - Science and Technology (Interactions in the Environment)