

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

A Guide to Using **NatureWILD** Magazine with your class

Winter 2016/17: Cats & Birds, the Mighty Dust Mite, Geodes & More!



WHAT'S UP
WITH THE
BIRDS?
(PAGE 4-5)

Many people love to hear the sound of birds chirping in their neighborhood or see them flit from shrub to flower to bush to feeder. This article gives you some ideas of how to keep these birds around, especially in urban areas where there are many pet and feral cats roaming.

Grade 2-7: Science/Core Competency:

Teaching Idea – After reading this article, have students do some research on the hunting techniques of cats and habitat needs of local birds. Once students have a solid understanding, ask them to create a device or suggest methods of reducing the number of birds killed by pet and feral (homeless) cats. Which ideas help keep birds and cats safe? This project could be combined with students joining the citizen science project suggested by the article.

Curriculum Link:

Core Competency – Social Responsibility: 1. Contributing to community and caring for the environment. Students develop awareness and take responsibility for their social, physical, and natural environments by working independently and collaboratively for the benefit of others, communities, and the environment.

Core Competency – Creative Thinking: 3. Developing ideas. After students get creative ideas, they evaluate them, decide which ones to develop, refine and work to realize them in some way. This process of developing ideas may require building the necessary skills, sustaining perseverance, and using failure productively over time. It may also require generating additional creative ideas to come up with solutions to problems along the way.

Resources:

Video showing hunting cats:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KYebpiRoeOc>

Article on cats hunting:

Upper intermediate

<http://blog.nature.org/science/2013/02/22/is-your-kitty-cat-a-destructive-killer/>

DUST MITES! YOUR LOSEST NEIGHBOUR (PAGES 8-9)

If you didn't know about dust mites before, this great article will introduce you to how they help keep the energy cycles of the earth going by recycling some of the dust and detritus that gathers in the corners of our homes.

Grade K-7: Language Arts/Career Education

Teaching Idea: To prepare students for their work in Career Education, have them engage in a language arts activity where they write a resume for a dust mite looking for a recycling job in the classroom. If a resume is too formal, students could pretend they are lawyers who are arguing for the rights of the dust mite. Their job is to convince the audience that although there are some ways dust mites can be a nuisance, they are overall more helpful than not. To do this, students need to identify the strengths and abilities of dust mites.

Curriculum Links:

Career Education Big Ideas: Exploring our strengths and abilities can help us identify our goals (Gr. 4-5). Practicing respectful, ethical, inclusive behavior prepares us for the expectations of the workplace (Gr. 6-7).

Language Arts Curricular Competency Create and Communicate (writing, speaking and representing): Use writing and design processes to plan, develop and create texts for a variety of purposes and audiences (Gr. 4+).

NOW YOU SEE ME! (PAGES 12-13)

In this Read Aloud Story showshoe hare learns how her white winter coat provides camouflage that hides her from predators like the dangerous lynx.

Teaching idea: Grade 3-5. Have students read the story aloud in a reader's theatre style. This could also be turned into a puppet show, including puppet making as part of the project.

Curriculum Link: Language Arts Curricular Competency: Readers will read fluently at grade level.

Arts Education Big Idea: Dance, drama, music, and visual arts are each unique languages for creating and communicating.

ASK AL (PAGE 14)

Every wish you had a natural history expert in your classroom?

In each issue of NatureWILD magazine nature mentor Al Grass answers questions posed by students and NatureKids BC members. In this issue Al shares with students the difference between an American Red Squirrel and a Douglas Squirrel.

Have your students submit their questions to info@naturekidsbc.ca, and Al may answer them in an upcoming issue of NatureWILD magazine.

WHAT ARE GEODES? (PAGE 10)

Geodes are deceptively plain on the outside but on the inside shimmer with the beauty of crystals formed from minerals over millions of years. This article and the accompanying article “What is Amber” may spark an interest in budding geologists.

Grade K-7: Visual Arts:

Teaching Idea – Once students have finished reading the article, or having you read it to them, show them pictures of geodes or if you have some, bring them into class for them to look at. Google pictures of paintings inspired by geodes to give students ideas of how they could make an abstract painting inspired by the layers within a geode. Then have students paint their own. To incorporate some water colour techniques, have students sprinkle salt crystals (large grind, not fine) in the middle of their paintings to create a crystal like effect. You could also read the book “A Rock is Lively” By Diane Hutts Aston, it has a section about geodes.

Curriculum Link: Arts Learning Standards: Exploring and creating – explore elements, processes, materials, movements, technologies, tools, and techniques of the arts.

Resources:

Be a Rock Detective: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tNs1gqkYerg>

“A Rock is Lively” youtube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GEAGTJmEYMA>

Geode Art <http://www.tanjanikolic.com/geodes-agates-paintings/>

<https://www.etsy.com/ca/listing/287085015/blue-agate-geode-watercolor-painting-4x6?ref=market>

Salt Watercolour Art <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YS8RdxQrw4c>

WHAT IS AMBER? (PAGE 11)

This short article describes how amber is formed and tells the reader about a fossil people don’t usually think of as one.

Grade K-3: Teaching Idea – After reading the article, as a class, in groups or on their own, have students research different fossils that have been preserved in Amber. Finish the project by hiding “fossils” in orange jello.

Gr. 4-8: Teaching Idea – Use this article and the movie Jurassic Park to do a project on the difference between fact and fiction. Look at how Science often inspires movie writer’s imaginations, but that we have to be careful to identify the difference between a scientific discovery, fact or a working theory and fiction.

Curriculum Link: Language Arts Big Ideas Gr. 6: Questioning what we hear, read and view contributes to our ability to be educated and engaged citizens. Gr. 2: Curiosity and wonder lead us to new discoveries about ourselves and the world around us.

Science Big Idea: Gr. 2: Materials can be changed through physical and chemical processes.

Resources:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/science/dinosaurs/10303795/Jurassic-Park-ruled-out-dinosaur-DNA-could-not-survive-in-amber.html>

<http://www.livescience.com/54574-can-we-clone-dinosaurs.html>