



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 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, 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 songs, 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.

### **Kindergarten Big Ideas**

- Plants and animals have observable features.
- Daily and seasonal changes affect all living things.

## **Suggested Pre-trip Activities**

- Share personal stories and experiences about Spring
- Draw a picture of what you enjoy doing outside during the spring season.
- Read stories to introduce seasons and local animals in the forest
- Make predictions about what they might see on field trip (animals, birds, fish, reptiles, amphibians, plants)

## **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 Spring/Summer
- Explore your school neighborhood looking for signs of Spring
- 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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### **Student References**

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Blomgren, Jennifer. Where Would I Be in an Evergreen Tree? Sasquatch Books, 2004.

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Viano, Hannah. S is for Salmon: Pacific Northwest Alphabet. Little Bigfoot, Sasquatch Books, 2014.

Wishart, P. and Hayley, D. Knee High Nature: Fall-A Guide to Nature Activities and fun. Edmonton. Lone Pine Publishing. 1994