

Environmental Science

- **Pond Study, (or ‘Pond Under the Ice’ Study) 1.5 hrs**

Suitable for all grade levels.

- Students collect, observe and identify denizens of Cameron Lake or Hidden Lake! For ‘Pond Under The Ice’ study, students assist the coordinator in drilling through the ice and then use a special collection device to gather mud and water from close to the bottom which is then brought inside to warm up all the little dormant critters! (Witness seemingly ‘lifeless’ water begin to teem as it approaches room temperature over time!)

- **Special Adaptations for Winter 1.5 hrs**

Suitable for grades 3+

- Start with a special tour down to the Beaver Lodge then up to the field for interactive game followed by a discussion of how plants, pond life and animals big and small have adapted to survive a harsh winter climate.

- **Changes 40 min.**

Suitable for playschool – grade 2

- Spring and fall short interpretive walks discussing changes to the flora and fauna indigenous to the site brought on by the changing season(s.)

- **Boreal Forest-Wetland ‘Edge’ Interpretive Tour 1-1.5 hrs**

- Adaptable for all grades.

- A gentle hike through the forests surrounding the facility with an emphasis on the flora and fauna that inhabit the Northern Boreal Forest that we share with another Continent! Special stops along the way with a chance for all students to witness or examine habitat, wetland edges and, with any luck, some of the full time residents of the Cameron Lake area! (Hidden Lake is becoming a highlight of the tour with frequent sightings of Trumpeter Swans!)

- **Muskeg Study .5 – 1.5 hrs**

Adaptable for all grades with ‘worksheets’ for grade 4+

Take a stroll down the driveway and out onto the ‘boardwalk’ to witness the specialized plants that have adapted to live in this soggy nutrient poor area. A discussion about this special area includes speaking to the ability of wetlands to act as a natural ‘filter’ for our water. (if the weather has been right the predatory ‘sundew’ may make an appearance!)

- **Geography 1 hr**
- This tour works best with grade 5+ students
- A medium length walk starting at Cameron Lake leading up and over to Hidden Lake discussing landforms, aspect ect.. How glaciation, erosion and finally our largest rodent helped to form the landscape.
- **Cartography 2.5 hrs**
- Grade 5+
- This program starts with class discussion about maps and mapping and leads into a short walk to the ridge behind the facility where students can visualize first hand how topographic maps relate to the landscape. (If the teacher would like to expand on this topic we have an activity for the students to translate the two dimensional into three with popsicle stick or cardboard models!)
- **Beaver Study 30-40 min**
- Preschool and up!!!!
- A short trip down the trail to the closest beaver lodge to examine it and discuss how the local population has transformed the area close to their home.
- **Tracks and Traces 1 hr**
- Preschool +!!
- A classroom discussion followed by a search for tracks on the trails nearby! (Teachers may expand on this topic if they wish by having students make plaster casts of what they find....)
- **Migration vs. Adaptation 30 min**
- K+
- First a quick discussion on why animals migrate, (it's not only in winter!.) or have to adapt, and then onto a game called Oh Deer!
- **Food Webs 30-40 min**
- Preschool+!
- We understand now that it's far more complex than we thought! Students are assisted in exploring this idea followed by a game about pond life that demonstrates the concept.
- **Wild Games 1 hr**
- Choose from either a set of three shorter games, (Thicket, Camouflage, and Muskox...<add Hare ways in winter>,) or one long game of Survival to help learn about how difficult it is for wildlife (and plants) to survive!

- **Botanical Studies (time will vary)**
- Adaptable for any grade level.
- There are a few ways to approach studying Botany at the centre and this will be left up to the class teacher to communicate to the Coordinator...
- Interpretation along the way on any length of hike...
- Walks targeted at Botany only...
- Specialized worksheets/studies that can be found on the 'Resources' page of this website...
- Or simply classroom discussion! (one of those 'rainy day options' we mentioned at the top of the page!)
- **SNOW! 30-60 min**
- Preschool+
- Examine snow in all it's glory! From studying crystals with magnification to experiments on destructive metamorphism, (this means shoveling is involved!) and snow as an insulator. (Special surprise activities may be organized by the coordinator!)
- **Animal Charades (as long as you like, I love this game!)**
- A special game for Preschool-Grade 3!