

Dear MP – Save The Wetlands

Grade 5 – Languages



Lesson Details

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| Grade Level: | 5 | Curriculum Links: | Languages | Time Needed: | 1.5 hours |
| Learning Goal | To write a letter to the local MP outlining the needs and importance of wetlands. Students will first organize their thoughts and conduct any necessary research to provide background information for their letter. | | | | |
| Success Criteria | By the end of this lesson, students will have researched the importance of wetlands and why turtles depend so heavily on them. Students will also have drafted and finalized a letter to their local MP with their research and opinions on the topic. | | | | |
| Specific Expectations | <p><i>Writing</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify the topic, purpose, and audience for a variety of writing forms; Write longer and more complex texts using a variety of forms; Establish an appropriate voice in their writing, with a focus on modifying language and tone to suit different circumstances or audiences; Proofread and correct their writing using guidelines developed with peers and the teacher; Gather information to support ideas for writing, using a variety of strategies and a range of print and electronic resources; Identify and order main ideas and supporting details and group them into units that could be used to develop several linked paragraphs, using a variety of strategies; Produce revised, draft pieces of writing to meet identified criteria based on the expectations related to content, organization, style, and use of conventions. | | | | |
| Materials Needed | Worksheet (attached), Computer, Internet Access, Pencil, Envelopes, Stamps (for mailing), Notebook, Paper. | | | | |

Lesson Description

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| Overview | Students will research the importance of wetlands and why they are vital for turtles. From this research the students will draft and finalize a written letter addressed to their local MP discussing the importance of wetland conservation. |
| Activity | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Begin by asking students “why are wetlands important?”. Furthering the discussion, ask the students the following questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How do humans negatively impact wetlands? Positively? Who has the power to help wetlands? What can we do to help create positive change? If you could send a message to our local MP about wetlands, what would you say? Next, have students research wetland loss and conservation. Have students fill out the attached worksheet to guide them in their research. After researching, students should begin drafting a letter addressed to their local MP discussing the research they have conducted and their opinion on the importance of wetlands. Finally, after review from the instructor, send out the letters to your local MP and discuss with the students why it’s important to voice your opinions on important topics like nature conservation. |

Lesson Description

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| Background Information | <p>Wetlands are crucial to the health of water systems. If a wetland was part of the human body, it'd be known as our kidneys. They filter water and regulate the distribution of its flow. Without wetlands, bacteria and other pollutants would flow directly into our lakes and rivers. It is important to note that wetlands are also a home to many species, not just plants. Turtles are most often found in wetlands. They are considered keystone species, in other words, incredibly valuable and integral to the health of the water. Likewise, wetlands provide turtles a home and contribute to their overall well-being. Wetlands teach us the relationships between the environment, plants, and animals. Wetlands have systems to filter water, which benefits turtles. In return, turtles provide valuable services to wetlands.</p> |
| Blacklist Masters | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worksheet (attached) • Video Link(s): Wetlands and Turtles in Ontario and Threats to Ontario Turtles • For more information, please visit https://www.turtleguardians.com/sample-page/turtle-habitats/ |
| Place-Based Learning | <p>By sending their letters to their local government, the students are forming discussions and creating change for their local environment.</p> |
| Inquiry-Based Learning | <p>Using Structured Inquiry, the students will work independently to conduct their research and write their letters.</p> <p>Ask the students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why are wetlands important? • How do humans negatively impact wetlands? Positively? • Who has the power to help wetlands? • What can we do to help create positive change? • If you could send a message to our local MP about wetlands, what would you say? |
| Turtle Stories | <p>How do you plan to make positive impacts on the environment and reduce negative ones? Wildlife is often impacted greatly by pollution, so keeping nature clean from garbage is one way to contribute. Organize a local clean-up to show your support. Students are encouraged to share their experiences, pictures, and letters on the Turtle Stories website, found here: https://www.turtlestories.ca/</p> |
| Turtle Guardian Program Links | <p>After completing Level 1 (Ontario Turtle Identification) of the Turtle Guardian Program, students can move onto Level 2 (Wetland Watchers). In this level the students learn how to monitor wetland habitats, contribute to knowledge of wildlife-biology in the region, and are able to adopt a wetland to monitor for turtles, birds, and other animals. For more information, please visit https://www.turtleguardians.com/what-is-a-turtle-guardian/</p> |

My Notes



Dear MP – Save The Wetlands: Research

Topic: Wetland Loss and Conservation

Using the computer, research wetland loss in your community. Why has the land been negatively impacted? What lead to the loss? What/who is affected by wetland loss?

Using the computer, research wetland conservation in your community. Also, research wetland conservation in other communities to learn what your community could do to make further changes. Which local wildlife organizations help wildlife in your community?

What is your opinion on wetland conservation? Why is it important to you?

On a separate piece of paper, begin writing a rough draft of a letter to your local MP about the importance of wetland conservation using the research you just conducted.