

# Dear MP – Shoreline Conservation

Grade 8 – Languages



## Lesson Details

<b>Grade Level:</b>	8	<b>Curriculum Links:</b>	Languages	<b>Time Needed:</b>	1.5 hours
<b>Learning Goal</b>	To write a letter to the local MP outlining the importance of shoreline conservation. Students will first organize their thoughts and conduct any necessary research to provide background information for their letter.				
<b>Success Criteria</b>	By the end of this lesson, students will have researched the importance of shoreline conservation and the negative implications of water pollution. Students will also have drafted and finalized a letter to their local MP with their research and opinions.				
<b>Specific Expectations</b>	<p><i>Writing</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify the topic, purpose, and audience for more complex writing forms;</li> <li>Write complex texts of a variety of lengths using a wide range of forms;</li> <li>Establish a distinctive voice in their writing appropriate to the subject and audience;</li> <li>Proofread and correct their writing using guidelines developed with peers and the teacher;</li> <li>Gather information to support ideas for writing, using a variety of strategies and a range of print and electronic resources;</li> <li>Identify and order main ideas and supporting details and group them into units that could be used to develop a summary, a debate, or a report of several paragraphs, using a variety of strategies and organizational patterns;</li> <li>Make revisions to improve the content, clarity, and interest of their written work, using a variety of strategies.</li> </ul>				
<b>Materials Needed</b>	Worksheet (attached), Computer, Internet Access, Pencil, Envelopes, Stamps (for mailing), Notebook, Paper.				

## Lesson Description

<b>Overview</b>	Students will research the importance of shoreline conservation and how water pollution is detrimental. From this research the students will draft and finalize a written letter addressed to their local MP discussing the importance of shoreline conservation.
<b>Activity</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Begin by asking students “why is it important to keep shorelines natural?”.</li> <li>Furthering the discussion, ask the students the following questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How do humans negatively impact water bodies? Positively?</li> <li>Who has the power to help water bodies and shorelines?</li> <li>What can we do to help create positive change?</li> <li>If you could send a message to our local MP about shoreline conservation, what would you say?</li> </ul> </li> <li>Next, have students research shoreline conservation and water pollution. Have students fill out the attached worksheet to guide them in their research.</li> <li>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 shoreline conservation.</li> <li>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.</li> </ol>

# Lesson Description

<b>Background Information</b>	Many people are altering shorelines, especially on lakes. This has dramatic impacts on wildlife as their access in and out of the water is being altered and potentially taken away all together. Species like turtles, for example, rely on natural shoreline access to leave the water to find nesting sites. In addition, water pollution from the removal of natural shorelines is increasing as the riparian zone becomes either smaller or removed altogether. Wetlands help to naturally filter the water, but with the changes to their shorelines, their filtration abilities are also being altered.
<b>Blacklist Masters</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Worksheet (attached)</li> <li>• Video Link(s): <a href="#">How You Can Help Ontario Turtles</a>, <a href="#">Threats to Ontario Turtles</a>, and <a href="#">Wetlands and Turtles in Ontario</a></li> <li>• For more information, please visit <a href="https://www.turtleguardians.com/sample-page/turtle-habitats/">https://www.turtleguardians.com/sample-page/turtle-habitats/</a></li> </ul>
<b>Place-Based Learning</b>	By sending their letters to their local government, the students are forming discussions and creating change for their local environment.
<b>Inquiry-Based Learning</b>	<p>Using <b>Structured Inquiry</b>, 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"> <li>• Why is it important to keep shorelines natural?</li> <li>• How do humans negatively impact water bodies? Positively?</li> <li>• Who has the power to help water bodies and shorelines?</li> <li>• What can we do to help create positive change?</li> <li>• If you could send a message to our local MP about shoreline conservation, what would you say?</li> </ul>
<b>Turtle Stories</b>	How do you plan to share your newly gained knowledge for shoreline conservation? Learn how to get involved with the Blue Lakes Project and Shoreline Gardens through The Land Between. Students are encouraged to share their experiences, pictures, and letters on the Turtle Stories website, found here: <a href="https://www.turtlestories.ca/">https://www.turtlestories.ca/</a>
<b>Turtle Guardian Program Links</b>	After completing <b>Level 2</b> (Wetland Watchers) of the <b>Turtle Guardian Program</b> , students can move onto <b>Level 3</b> (Conservation). In this level the students learn how to design their own conservation project with the help from staff or support from their school. For more information, please visit <a href="https://www.turtleguardians.com/what-is-a-turtle-guardian/">https://www.turtleguardians.com/what-is-a-turtle-guardian/</a>

# My Notes



# Dear MP – Shoreline Conservation: Research

**Topic:** Shoreline Conservation and Water Pollution

Using the computer, research shoreline loss in your community. Why are shorelines being negatively impacted? What lead to the loss? What/who is affected by shoreline loss and water pollution?

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

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

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