

Ontario Wildlife Fact Sheet

Grade 6 – Science and Technology



Lesson Details

Grade Level:	6	Curriculum Links:	Science and Technology	Time Needed:	2 hours
Learning Goal	To conduct research about a local wetland and become familiar with the wildlife within the wetland, including the turtle species present and other biodiversity. Using this information, the students will create a fact sheet about the wetland.				
Success Criteria	By the end of this lesson, students will have researched the wildlife within a local wetland of their choosing and visited the area. Students will also have gained experience in creating a fact sheet with their gathered information.				
Specific Expectations	<p><i>Understanding Life Systems: Biodiversity</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow established safety procedures for outdoor activities and field work; Investigate the organisms found in a specific habitat and classify them according to a classification system; Use scientific inquiry/research skills to compare the characteristics of organisms within the plant or animal kingdoms; Use appropriate science and technology vocabulary, including: classification, biodiversity, natural community, interrelationships, vertebrate, invertebrate, stability, characteristics, and organism, in oral and written communication; Demonstrate an understanding of biodiversity as the variety of life on Earth, including variety within each species of plant and animals in communities, and among communities and the physical landscapes that support them; Describe ways in which biodiversity within and among communities is important for maintaining the resilience of these communities. 				
Materials Needed	Worksheet (attached), Computer, Internet Access, Pencil, Appropriate Outdoor Clothing (Rainboots), Binoculars (optional), Notebook.				

Lesson Description

Overview	Students will research and visit a local wetland in order to create a fact sheet about the wildlife within it.
Activity	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Explain to the students that a wetland is host to a wide array of biodiversity. There exists a variety of life; plants, animals, birds, bacteria, etc. 2. Hand out the attached worksheet and explain the activity to the students. Students will first research a local wetland of their choosing in order to create a fact sheet about it – highlighting the species and abiotic features within it. 3. Students are then encouraged to visit their chosen wetland to see the biodiversity within it first-hand. Students should make notes and, if desired, take pictures for their fact sheet. If they are not able to take pictures themselves, then they should use images from the internet of their wetland. 4. Back in the classroom, students should continue their online research by following the prompts on the worksheet. 5. Students will then create a fact sheet based on their research. This factsheet can be in the form of a brochure or small poster.
Blacklist Masters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Worksheet (attached) Video Link(s): Wetlands and Turtles in Ontario

Lesson Description

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For more information, please visit https://www.turtleguardians.com/sample-page/turtle-habitats/
Place-Based Learning	By choosing a local wetland to visit and conduct research on the students will have a better understanding of the wildlife in their community.
Inquiry-Based Learning	Using Structured Inquiry , the students will work independently to conduct their research and complete their fact sheets. Ask the students: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is a wetland? What lives in a wetland? Plant species? Animal species? Does anything abiotic exist in a wetland? How do the various things that live in a wetland work together?
Turtle Stories	Now that you've seen and researched a wetland in your community, try creating a biodiverse environment of your own by creating a terrarium. Students are encouraged to share their experiences, pictures, and fact sheets on the Turtle Stories website, found here: https://www.turtlestories.ca/
Turtle Guardian Program Links	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/

My Notes



Ontario Wildlife Fact Sheet: Research

Choose a local wetland to create a fact sheet about. A fact sheet is a piece of paper (you can create either a small poster or a brochure) that provides useful information and is designed to be distributed publicly.

Local Wetland Name: _____

Location: _____

List the features of your chosen wetland: _____

List the common name and scientific name, as well as the diet, characteristics, and habitat requirements of a turtle species that lives within your chosen wetland. Do the same for another animal and bird of your choosing. _____

List the common name and scientific name, as well as the characteristics and habitat requirements of 2 plant species that exist within your chosen wetland. _____

Why should someone visit this wetland: _____
