

What Would You Do?

Grade 2 – Science and Technology



Lesson Details

Grade Level:	2	Curriculum Links:	Science and Technology	Time Needed:	30 minutes
Learning Goal	To gain an understanding of their responsibility in decision making as it pertains to the environment and animals.				
Success Criteria	By the end of this lesson, students will identify positive and negative effects that humans may have on wildlife.				
Specific Expectations	<p><i>Understanding Life Systems: Growth and Changes in Animals</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify positive and negative impacts that humans (society) have on animals and the environment, form an opinion about one of them, and suggest ways in which the impact can be minimized or enhanced; Identify positive and negative impacts that different kinds of human activity have on animals and where they live. 				
Materials Needed	Worksheet (attached), Pencil.				

Lesson Description

Overview	Students will complete a worksheet to outline the “good” and “bad” of building a shopping mall in the place of a wetland where a family of Blanding’s Turtle’s live.
Activity	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Start by asking the students what their responsibilities may be towards the environment – brainstorm as a class (E.g. not littering, to pick up trash, etc.) Follow up by asking if the decisions of where to construct a building might be a responsibility of theirs (as children it’s not their decision, but eventually it will become their decision as adults). Next, brainstorm reasons why humans should make smart decisions about where things are being built. Hand out the attached worksheet and have students complete it independently. You may choose to take up the worksheet together as a class once complete.
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, silt, sand, and pollutants would flow directly into our lakes, rivers, and oceans. It is important to note that wetlands are also a home to many species, not just plants.</p> <p>Blanding’s Turtle’s are semi-aquatic and will travel long distances to reach a nesting site, sometimes up to 2.5 km from a wetland. Turtles are most often found in wetlands and are considered to be a keystone species, meaning that they are incredibly valuable and integral to the health of the water.</p> <p>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, including consuming debris and dispersing seeds.</p>
Blacklist Masters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Worksheet (attached) Video Link(s): How You Can Help Ontario Turtles and Threats to Ontario Turtles

Lesson Description

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">For more information, please visit https://www.turtleguardians.com/sample-page/turtle-habitats/
Place-Based Learning	Having this knowledge will allow the students to reflect on the land in their community and the importance of keeping wildlife intact.
Inquiry-Based Learning	Using Guided Inquiry , the students will work independently to study the case study and evaluate the positive and negative impacts on the wetland. Ask the students: <ul style="list-style-type: none">What are our responsibilities towards the environment?How can we protect the environment?How do humans impact wildlife?Why are wetlands important?
Turtle Stories	After this activity students should think about new developments occurring in their community or region. We encourage students to write letters to their local politicians (with adult help) explaining the importance of keeping wildlife untouched and to consider conservation when developing the land. Students are encouraged to share their experiences, pictures, worksheets, and letters 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

What Would You Do?

<p>This is the town of Haliburton.</p> 	<p>Haliburton has many wetlands!</p> 	<p>Some people in Haliburton want a big shopping mall built on one of the wetlands.</p> 
<p>You know that there are Blanding's Turtle's in that wetland.</p> 	<p>Blanding's Turtle's are a threatened species in Ontario. This means there are not many of them left in the wild and they need help!</p> 	<p>But some people really want the mall built.</p> 
<p>And there are other people who really want to save the turtles.</p> 	<p>No one knows what to do!</p> 	<p>What would you do?</p> 

1. What are some good things about building the shopping mall in Haliburton? What are some bad things?

Good: A place to shop, to buy groceries, creates jobs for people in the town, etc.

Bad: Wetland is gone, Blanding's turtle's have no home or is killed, other animals and plants are also displaced, the beauty of nature is destroyed, etc.

2. How can you help both the Blanding's Turtle and build the mall in Haliburton?

Build the mall somewhere else so the wetland is left untouched, ensure further protection for the wetland from future development, educate people on the importance of keeping wetlands and protecting them.

3. What would you do in this situation? Would you build the mall, or protect the wetland?

What Would You Do?

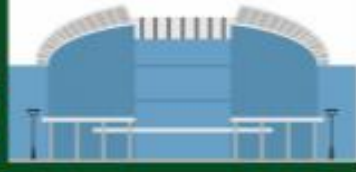
This is the town of Haliburton.



Haliburton has many wetlands!



Some people in Haliburton want a big shopping mall built on one of the wetlands.



You know that there are Blanding's Turtle's in that wetland.



Blanding's Turtle's are a threatened species in Ontario. This means there are not many of them left in the wild and they need help!



But some people really want the mall built.



And there are other people who really want to save the turtles.



No one knows what to do!



What would you do?



1. What are some good things about building the shopping mall in Haliburton? What are some bad things?

2. How can you help both the Blanding's Turtle and build the mall in Haliburton?

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