

## **Plan: How can I help prepare students and myself for a great day of learning?**

The **Biodiversity and Eco Literacy** program is designed to enrich student understanding of Eco Literacy\* by bringing the Grade 6 Science Curriculum to life through a hands-on, learning experience at Forest Valley Outdoor Education Centre.

\*Understanding how to support sustainable interactions between human and natural systems

### **Curriculum Connections:**

- [Science and Technology 1-8, Understanding Life Systems, Biodiversity \(pp. 112-114\)](#)

### **Some guiding questions to support effective field trip planning:**

- Why did you choose our **Biodiversity and Eco Literacy** Program?
- How does it integrate into your classroom program?
  - Is the field trip going to act as a “minds on” engagement where students formulate questions for inquiry?
  - Is the field trip an opportunity for students to gather evidence for an inquiry already in progress?
  - Is the field trip a culminating experience for students to apply their learning?

### **Possible Pre-Trip Experiences:**

- Begin a Know, Wonder, Learn (KWL) chart about biodiversity to bring with you to Forest Valley
- Explore the school grounds and make a tally of the different types of trees, birds, insects, plants and animals and graph the data
- Sort data by native and non-native species and invasive and non-invasive species with the help of the following resources: [A Guide to Toronto’s Pollinators](#), [The Landowners Guide to Controlling Invasive Woodland Plants \(Ontario\)](#), [Ontario Wildlife and Nature](#), [Birds of Toronto](#)
- Research invasive plant species using [Eco Schools Stop the Spread](#) guide
- Explore “[Biodiversity in the City](#)” and use the checklists of Toronto mammals, birds, butterflies, spiders, reptiles, amphibians, and fish (hard copies are available from Forest Valley’s Library, please contact [ForestValleyOutdoorEdCentre@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:ForestValleyOutdoorEdCentre@tdsb.on.ca))
- Use the [Toronto Field Naturalists](#) website to connect with a local advocacy group, find more field guides or plan another field trip to local examples of biodiversity
- Map the tree species present on your school property using the [Ontario Tree Atlas](#) and consider making a plan with your [Eco Schools](#) Committee to increase biodiversity
- Partner with a Grade 2 and/or Grade 4 class to take on the role of “[Outdoor Educators](#)” to teach them about the trees at the school
- Use the [Canadian Museum of Nature](#) to introduce students to the study of biodiversity

### **TDSB Web Resources** (note, these may only be accessible through a TDSB computer):

- [MediaNet](#) (Library & Learning Resources: Grade 6 Understanding Life Systems)
- [TDSB's Virtual Library](#)