

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

The **Interactions in the Environment** program is designed to enrich student understanding of Eco Literacy\* by bringing the Grade 7 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, Interactions in the Environment \(pp. 126-128\)](#)

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

- Why did you choose our **Interactions in the Environment** 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 eco-systems and human impact to bring with you to Forest Valley
- Explore the school grounds/local community and make a list of abiotic and a list of biotic elements and brainstorm the possible connections
- Research, design and construct a model eco system in the classroom (a [composter](#), [terrarium](#) or [greenhouse](#)) and label it with the appropriate scientific vocabulary
- Analyse the cost/benefit of one of the Eco initiatives already happening at your school (e.g. recycling, energy conservation) and make a recommendation to the [Eco Schools](#) Committee to improve based on the data
- Research the environmental impact of mobile technology
- Investigate a local occurrence that impacts your school’s eco system (e.g. invasive species, pollution, lack of biodiversity in the school yard) and decide on an eco action 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](#)
  - [Eco Schools Stop the Spread](#) guide
- Use the [Toronto Field Naturalists](#) website to connect with a local advocacy group, find more field guides or plan another field trip to a local ecosystem

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

- [MediaNet](#) (Library & Learning Resources: Grade 7 Understanding Life Systems)
- [TDSB's Virtual Library](#)