

Reflect: We Had a Great Trip at Forest Valley...Now What?

“Learning does not end with presentation but rather with reflection, reflexivity, and action. As a function of learning, learners need to position themselves differently in the world: business ought not to go on as usual.” (Harste, 2001, p. 15)
[Pedagogical Documentation Revisited, Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat, Capacity Building, 2015](#)



A field trip to Forest Valley should not end with getting on the bus and going back to the classroom. In order to complete the learning cycle, please engage your students in a learning conversation about the observations that were made during the field study.

If you, your students or Forest Valley Staff made artwork, took notes or photographs of your learning, **share** them, **talk** about them and **make a new plan of action!** Information on accessing Google Drive can be found on [the Frequently Asked Questions section of our website](#).

Guiding Questions to Extend the Learning

- “What did you observe?”
- “What connections can you make to our learning goal?”
- “How do you know you met the success criteria?”
- “What do you still wonder?”
- “Now what?”

Please send photos, videos or written artefacts that document the learning back in the classroom and we will feature them (if you are willing) on our website and at our Open House to help other teachers see how to connect their outdoor learning back in the classroom! Samples of student learning can be sent to ForestValleyOutdoorEdCentre@tdsb.on.ca or via courier to Forest Valley OEC, Route NW11.

Possible Follow-up Activities for Habitat and Communities

- Identify the factors you saw at Forest Valley that affect the ability of plants and animals to survive in the various habitats found there
- Work on a class project to show your school the negative impacts human activity can have on natural habitats and communities and how that can be reversed by positive action
- Explore the habitat around your school ground noting the variety of living things that exist. How might you be able to create appropriate natural habitats around your school?

- Co-create a field guide based on the animals that were found at Forest Valley and can be found in your local community that includes their basic needs
- Students can now use the field guide to take reading buddies or another class on a nature walk around the local community
- Create a fundraising plan to sell the class field guides to generate funds to support an [EcoSchools](#) initiative at your school
- Students work in groups to create a board game that teaches how energy flows through a habitat (pieces that represent energy have to move through the habitat)

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

- [MediaNet](#) (Library & Learning Resources: Grade 4 Understanding Life Systems)
- [TDSB's Virtual Library](#)

Web Resources

- [Natural Wildlife Foundation](#) (lesson plans)
- [Resources for ReThinking](#) (information about local wildlife, lesson plans...etc.)
- [City of Toronto, Biodiversity Series \(Butterflies of Toronto, Spiders of Toronto, Fishes of Toronto, Mammals of Toronto, Reptiles of Toronto\)](#)
- [Journey North – seasonal maps and sightings of plants, birds...etc.](#)