

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

The **Habitat and Communities** program is designed to enrich student understanding of Eco Literacy\* by bringing the Grade 4 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, Habitats and Communities \(pp. 84-86\)](#)

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

- Why did you choose our **Habitat and Communities** 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 around the framing question: How do all living things depend on their habitat to meet their needs?
- take a community walk to look for evidence of living things and try to identify the habitat they need to survive
- Specifically look at local plants and animals and ask how they get their food, water, shelter, and space they need
- Review how living things are inter-dependent and the role plants play in the ecosystem
- Teach the importance of habitat and the relationship humans have with habitat creation and loss
- Make a map of your school habitat
- ask your Eco Schools committee for help identifying some possible ways to improve your local habitat and/or consult <http://www.tdsb.on.ca/ecoschools/home.aspx>

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.](#)