

Experiencing the Outdoor Learning Centre

BACKGROUND

“Experiencing the Outdoor Learning Centre” introduces your students to the Baillie Ard Nature Trails. It encourages them to make careful observations of the Washbrook ecosystem.

TEACHER'S NOTES

This lesson has two activities:

- Environmental reflection and data collection/manipulation on site and in the classroom.
- Considering the global issue and planning local action.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completing this activity, students will be expected to have:

- sharpened their observation and analytical skills
- enhanced appreciation of the environment.
- reflected on what they appreciate about their environment.
- recognized their connection to the environment.

MATERIALS

Unit 8 “Why You Care about Your World”, from *Young Canada Health 2*

Worksheet

Pencil

Writing surface

1. Reflection and Data Collection

Explain that you'll be exploring the Learning Centre, suggest students think about what they see, hear, smell, and feel when walking through the site.

Hand out data collection sheets for students to fill out on their own.

Back in the classroom, classify the data (in whichever way you want – you could even ask students how data should be classified). Ask students to reflect on the experience and answer (in a journal entry) the following questions:

“What made you happy to see?”

“What made you sad/angry to see?”

“What did you see that belongs in the site? Why does it belong?”

“What did you see that doesn't belong in the site? Why does it not belong?”

2. Global Issue, Local action

Read Garbage Creek from “Why You Care about Your World” (in *Young Canada Health 2*). (I don't have a copy of this book, so I'm not sure what questions can be used from the workbook – just add the appropriate ones in for a final version of this). Have students compare Garbage Creek and Washbrook, and think about what they can do to care for Washbrook. In small groups, come up with a plan to clean up the brook and to keep the brook clean for the future.