



## curriculum links

### Grade 4

- ◆ Understanding Life Systems:  
*Habitats and Communities*

## overview

Students learn about the importance of trees to watershed health. Characteristics of various plants are examined as students learn about the role of trees in the ecosystem.



## grade 4 expectations

### Science and Technology

#### Understanding Life Systems: Habitats and Communities

##### Overall Expectations

- ◆ analyse the effects of human activities on habitats and communities;
- ◆ investigate the interdependence of plants and animals within specific habitats and communities;
- ◆ demonstrate an understanding of habitats and communities and the relationships among the plants and animals that live in them.

##### Specific Expectations

##### *Relating Science and Technology to Society and the Environment*

- ◆ analyse the positive and negative impacts of human interactions with natural habitats and communities;
- ◆ identify reasons for the depletion or extinction of a plant or animal species, evaluate the impacts on the rest of the natural community, and propose possible actions for preventing such depletions or extinctions from happening.

##### *Developing Investigation and Communication Skills*

- ◆ build food chains consisting of different plants and animals, including humans;
- ◆ use scientific inquiry/research skills to investigate ways in which plants and animals in a community depend on features of their habitat to meet important needs;
- ◆ use appropriate science and technology vocabulary, including *habitat*, *population*, *community*, *adaptation*, and *food chain*, in oral and written communication;





## *Understanding Basic Concepts*

- demonstrate an understanding of habitats as areas that provide plants and animals with the necessities of life;
- demonstrate an understanding of food chains as systems in which energy from the sun is transferred to producers and then to consumers;
- identify factors that affect the ability of plants and animals to survive in a specific habitat;
- demonstrate an understanding of a community as a group of interacting species sharing a common habitat;
- describe structural adaptations that allow plants and animals to survive in specific habitats;
- describe ways in which humans are dependent on natural habitats and communities.

## key terms

**Coniferous** - Any of various mostly needle-leaved or scale-leaved, chiefly evergreen, cone-bearing gymnospermous trees or shrubs such as pines, spruces, and firs.

**Deciduous** - shedding the leaves annually, as certain trees and shrubs.

