



The environmental education program at CPAWS Ottawa Valley offers outings linked to the Ontario Curriculum for elementary school students:

There are two excursions available for students of Grade 1.

Excursion 1: Understanding Life Systems: Characteristics of plants and animals, including humans.

We will be discussing a range of topics related to the grade one curriculum on a two hour hike at Mer-Bleau or Stony Swamp – bog and forest wildlife. We explore what are the components of a healthy environment: clean air and water, different animal species, healthy trees. We also investigate the life cycles of trees and compare coniferous and deciduous trees such as spruce, jack-pine, larch, paper birch, oak and trembling poplar. We'll breathe the clean air of the coniferous forest, talk about the production of oxygen by trees, observe water quality in the bog, and talk about the role played by plants in water purification. We will also touch base on a couple of other topics and will explain how life without plants would be impossible. Students will inspect leaves, seeds, and will find multiple tree species to compare.

We will also educate students about animal diets and how animals are classified based on their diets: herbivores, omnivores, and carnivores. We'll try to find examples of all types of diets among mammals, birds, turtles, frogs, fish, and insects.



During our excursion we'll play several games: including 'Who am I', 'Identifying Trees' and 'Sounds and Colors', as to help student remember things that they learned.



After our hike the students will be able to describe coniferous and deciduous trees, they will know about different types of animals and they will be able to list the most common animals living around Ottawa.

At the end of the day students will have time to draw the things that they saw during the excursion.

They can also make a nature table in class from collected leaves, cones and other natural materials (non-living). As well as play some more interactive games.



Excursion 2: Understanding Structures and Mechanisms: Impact on the Environment and WasteManagement.



During our 2 hour hike at Mud Lake we'll investigate the impact of structures and the materials used in them on humans and the environment. Students will learn about the effects of roads on habitats and the animals that live there. We'll also learn how to minimize waste and use the three R's (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle). We'll discuss environmental responsibility, and illustrate how if every student left garbage along the trail, they would pollute the environment, therefore damaging the habitat for animals and plants.

We'll play several relevant games such as: 'Scavenger Hunt', 'Feely Bag' and 'Owls and Crows'. At the end of the hike students will know about the product cycle, as well as the importance of minimizing waste and the materials that help in decreasing garbage. After the excursion students will draw warning signs to educate themselves and increase awareness on animals killed by roads such as: turtles, porcupines, moose, deer, beavers, and others.

