



The Environmental education program at CPAWS Ottawa Valley offers outings linked to the Ontario Curriculum for students in elementary schools:

Grade 2: Health and physical education and Understanding Life Systems

A full day excursion can be arranged for grade 2 students: The day would be divided into two parts. The first portion of the day students will learn about the diversity of animals and the ways that they adapt to the environment. In the second part of the day we will educate students about the human impact on animals and the impact that animals have on society. Several places in the Ottawa Valley feature a variety of animal and plant species that are common to multiple habitats. Due to this fact, the possibilities of where the outing will take place are countless and can be suited to particular preferences. As an extra during the hike we will discuss some simple things to take into consideration when going on a trip. These will be fairly simple tips such as how to dress appropriately, remember to put sunscreen on and recognize poisonous plants.

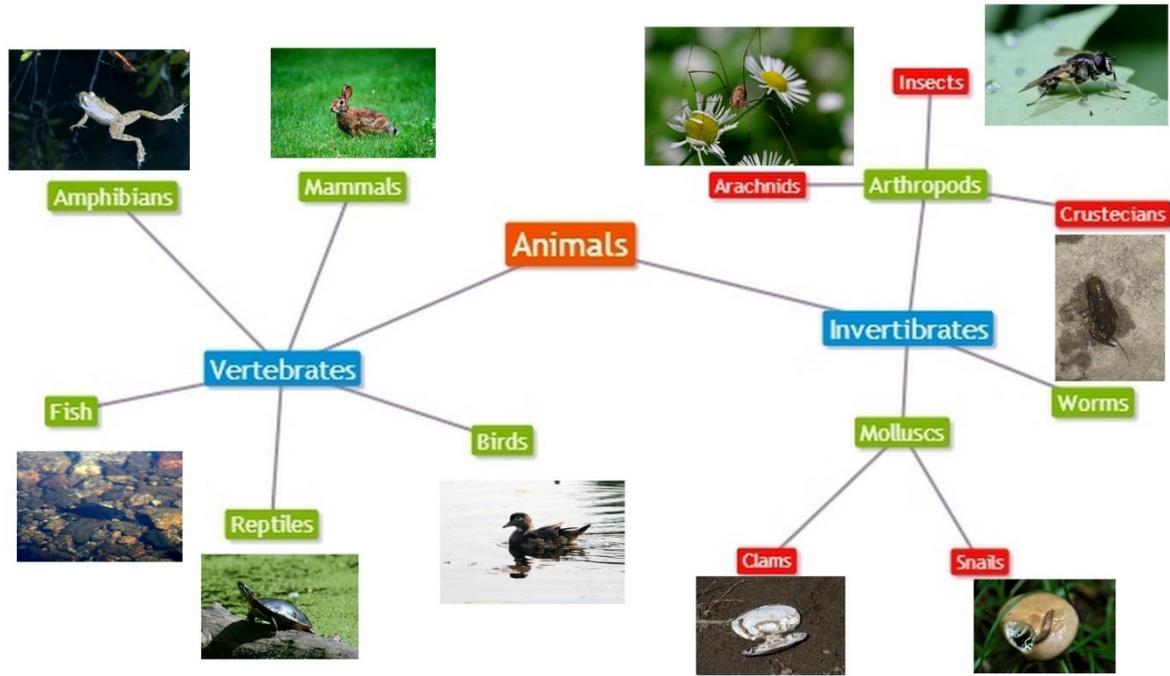


Poison Ivy

Part One: Animal Diversity

During our outing we will observe and compare various animals. We'll teach students the difference between vertebrates and invertebrates and explain the difference between cold-blooded and warm-blooded animals. Furthermore we will investigate and compare traits of mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians. Students will have a chance to examine the differences between mollusks and arthropods, spiders and insects, and crayfish and millipedes. Throughout the hike we will also examine the ways in

which animals adapt to their environment, as well as identify camouflage, warning signs, and mimicry among mammals, birds, frogs, and insects.



Activities will include observing and describing various animals, their tracks and their life styles. We'll focus on animals that are easily found in the Ottawa valley such as beavers, raccoons, white - tailed deer, grey and red squirrels, ground hogs, hares, and rabbits.

Part 2: Animal Interactions.

Students will explore and compare different diets of animal found in the Ottawa Valley, this will include both carnivores, omnivores and herbivores. They will learn about the variations between omnivorous, insectivorous, granivorous birds and raptors. Students will inspect the hunting patterns of dragonflies and notice how bees collect nectar and pollen.



We'll talk about the interactions between animals and plants and among animals: prey and predator, competition, symbiosis (both species benefit). If we find any examples within the environment during our trip we will point them out and ask the students to describe what is happening. We'll also mention human influences on the eco-zone in which we live in (temperate forests) and find examples of animals that have been affected by human activity.

For the first part of the excursion students will play 3 games: Robbers game, Woodland Sounds and Eagle eyes – these games will help students apprehend the biodiversity of wildlife and demonstrate the importance of adapting to the environmental conditions. We'll mention examples of adaptation to environmental changes such as migration, hibernation, preserving food for winter, changing summer fur for thicker winter wool and others. In order to review the concept learned in the second part of the day we picked out three more games: Camouflage is everything, Fox-Rabbit-Leaf and Mouse Hunt.

At the end of excursion students will know about animal diversity in Ottawa Valley and will be able to provide examples of animals with and without a backbone. They will be able to list several cold-blooded and warm-blooded animals and tell about their adaptation to the environment such as camouflage and warning signs. They will also be able to explain how humans and animals interact.

