



Dear Student

A letter writing process that gives students the opportunity to put themselves “in the shoes” of a species affected by climate change. Encourages students to generate effective and realistically achievable actions that they can undertake to help reducing the effects of climate change.

Objective:

To have students learn about and empathize with another BC species impacted by climate change.

Materials:

- Paper and pens or pencils, or computers, for letter writing.
- Handouts of student instructions (see page 3), or save the paper and place the instructions on an overhead or board where students can see them.

Teacher information:

1. Ask students to brainstorm the BC species they believe will be most impacted by climate change. Have them choose the one that they are most excited to learn about and inspired to protect.
2. Direct students to resources where they can learn more about their species:
 - <http://efauna.bc.ca/> and <http://www.eflora.bc.ca/>
 - <http://www.speciesatrisk.bc.ca>
3. Provide copies of, or an overhead of, the “Dear Student” handout provided below and have students complete the activity it outlines.

Debrief topics:

- What interesting things did you learn about your species?
- What actions do you expect people will choose to take to help your species?
- What was it like for you to imagine being a living thing other than human?

Follow-up suggestions:

- When students have finished, please send copies of the letters to WildED or scan them and email them to us at info@wilded.org. Let students know ahead of time that their letters may be available for other students around BC to see. Encourage them to take on the challenge of encouraging their peers to take action by writing really convincing letters.
- Consider placing displays of the letters around the school for other students in to read.
- Visit or “mail” other classes to share the letters and actions they suggest.
- The actions requested can be compiled and used as a starting point for students making their own action plans/commitments.



Dear Student - Instructions

1. Pick a species (plant or animal) that lives in British Columbia and write a letter from it to your class.
2. Introduce yourself, and tell a little bit about your species. Include:
 - What you look like (include a picture or drawing)
 - What you eat
 - What you need to survive
 - Why should a student care that you exist?
3. Explain to how climate change might affect you. Will it make life easier for you or harder? In what ways? Be descriptive and clear.
4. Ask the students to undertake at least **three** actions that you think will help you deal with and survive the challenge of climate change. Explain how these actions will help you. Make sure that the actions you ask them to do are ones that are possible for youth to do (not just things their parents or other adults could do). Be convincing! Your life might depend on it!
5. Be sure to sign the letter as your species when you are done. Think about how your plant or animal would sign (i.e. a paw print?). Be creative!
6. Display your letters around the school so that other students can see them. Share your action ideas with your class or with other classes.
7. Take the actions you suggest and do them yourself!