

Topic **EXPLORING THE NATURE OF OUR CHANGING CLIMATE**

Thank you for your interest in WildED. The following is an outline for our climate change education program for Grades 5 - 8, including how this syllabus links to BC's curriculum.

Program Objective

WildED's specially designed in-school activities, outdoor classroom, nature hikes, and teacher workshops provide students and teachers with:

- WONDER to inspire a personal connection with nature
- EDUCATION to understand and appreciate the importance of the natural world
- POWER to take action in preserving and conserving our wild places

Overview

What can a mountain tell us about our changing climate? What do salmon, forests, birds and bogs have to do with climate change? The Outdoor Classroom provides the setting for students to combine up to date scientific information with active exploration in one of four spectacular parks in order to gain an understanding of our human/nature connection as it relates to our changing climate.

At **Capilano River Regional Park**, students engage in a live case study that investigates the human-nature connection between the population of our region and the natural resources we depend upon such as water, forests, and salmon, as it relates to our changing climate.

At **Cypress Provincial Park**, students use a combination of existing science, and their own investigative skills, to explore this coastal alpine ecosystem in an effort to identify important clues that signal a changing climate as well as to consider the role humans have in contributing and responding to this challenge.

At **Burnaby Lake Regional Park**, students investigate what impacts climate change might have on a pocket of wild wetlands located within a suburban setting, particularly on the migrating bird species that depend on it, and how these changes can inform our actions as humans.

At **Pacific Spirit Regional Park**, students explore temperate rainforest and bog ecosystems, while learning about a new changing force: climate change. Specifically, they investigate how climate change will impact human settlements and wildlife in this region and what role the park will play in mitigating its effects.

At **Tynehead Regional Park**, students investigate the impact climate change can have on forests, rivers and the salmon life cycle. As well, students discover how urban wild spaces, such as Tynehead, are impacted by climate change, including how these same parks can mitigate some of the effects of a changing climate.

At **Burns Bog/Delta Nature Reserve**, students will be surrounded by one of the Lower Mainland's most interesting and important carbon sinks. Through scientifically informed, experiential games and activities students embark on an investigation of what climate change is, why it matters for humans and nature, and the important role bogs play in soaking up carbon.

Most importantly, students learn about climate change in a manner that is hopeful, fun, and emphasizes the opportunity for personal action to create solutions for positive change.

WildED's Exploring Our Changing Climate program consists of three components:

1. **GET INFORMED!** A pre-program primer for teachers and students including:
 - A 30 minute **Climate Primer Video**. A fun and interactive way to introduce students to key terms and concepts.
 - The **Nature Hike Teacher Information Guide** to prepare you and your class for the outdoor portion of this program.
2. **GET INVOLVED!** A full day (4-5 hours) of guided WildED exploration in Cypress Provincial Park, Capilano River Regional Park, Burnaby Lake Regional Park, Pacific Spirit Regional Park, Tynehead Regional Park or Burns Bog/Delta Nature Reserve that includes **hiking, in-nature activities, interactive games and discussion**.
3. **GET STARTED!** Post-program **resources** and **activities** for further learning and action in the classroom.

Links to Learning Outcomes

Grade 5

Science:

- analyze how BC's living and non-living resources are used
- describe potential environmental impacts of using BC's living and non-living resources

Social Studies:

- apply critical thinking skills to a range of problems and issues
- use maps and timelines to locate, interpret, and represent major physical, political, and economic features of BC and Canada
- describe the location of natural resources within BC and Canada
- explain why sustainability is important

Grade 6

Science:

- demonstrate the appropriate use of tools to examine living things that cannot be seen with the naked eye
- analyse how different organisms adapt to their environments

Social Studies:

- apply critical thinking skills to a range of problems and issues
- interpret graphs, tables, aerial photos, and various types of maps
- implement a plan of action to address a selected local or global problem or issue
- evaluate effects of technology on lifestyles and environments
- assess the relationship between cultures and their environments

Grade 7

Science:

- analyze the roles of organisms as part of interconnected food webs, populations, communities, and ecosystems
- assess survival needs and interactions between organisms and the environment
- assess the requirements for sustaining healthy local ecosystems
- evaluate human impacts on local ecosystems

Social Studies:

- apply critical thinking skills to a range of problems and issues
- use various types of graphs, tables, timelines, and maps to obtain or communicate information

Grade 8

Science:

- demonstrate knowledge of the characteristics of living things
- describe how water and ice shape the landscape

Social Studies:

- identify and clarify a problem, an issue, or an inquiry
- assess a variety of positions on controversial issues

Actual lesson plans can vary according to group age, size, time constraints, and by request.