



curriculum links

Grade 2:

- ◆ Life Systems
Growth and Changes in Animals



overview

This activity demonstrates how tolerance to water quality conditions varies among aquatic organisms. Students will learn to understand the connections between habitats and the animal communities they support. They will also learn that many natural habitats require efforts to restore and maintain their ecological function and that healthy vegetated landscapes protect our water supplies.

grade 2 expectations

Science and Technology

Understanding Life Systems: Growth and Changes in Plants

Overall Expectations

- ◆ assess ways in which animals have an impact on society and the environment, and ways in which humans have an impact upon animals and the places where they live;
- ◆ investigate similarities and differences in the characteristics of various animals;
- ◆ demonstrate an understanding that animals grow and change and have distinct characteristics.

Specific Expectations

Relating Science and Technology to Society and the Environment

- ◆ identify positive negative impacts that animals have on humans and the environment, from an opinion about one of them, and suggest ways in which the impact can be minimized or enhanced;
- ◆ identify positive and negative impacts that different kinds of human activity have on animals and where they live, form an opinion about one of them, and suggest ways in which the impact can be minimized or enhanced;





Developing Investigation and Communication Skills

- ◆ observe and compare the physical characteristics and the behavioural characteristics of a variety of animals, including insects, using student-generated questions and a variety of methods and resources;
- ◆ investigate the life cycle of a variety of animals, using a variety of methods and resources;
- ◆ observe and compare changes in the appearance and activity of animals as they go through a complete life cycle;
- ◆ use scientific inquiry/research skills, and knowledge acquired from previous investigations, to investigate the basic needs, characteristics, behaviour, and adaptations of an animals of their choice;
- ◆ use appropriate science and technology vocabulary, including *life cycle*, *migration*, *adaptation*, *body coverings*, and *classify*, in oral and written communication

Understanding Basic Concepts

- ◆ identify and describe major physical characteristics of different types of animals;
- ◆ describe an adaptation as a characteristic body part, shape, or behaviour that helps a plant or animal survive in its environment;
- ◆ identify ways in which animals are helpful to, and ways in which they meet the needs of, living things, including humans, to explain why humans should protect animals and the places where they live.

key terms

Habitat: The arrangement of food, water, shelter and space within an ecosystem to meet an organism's health and survival.

Macro invertebrates: Organisms that lack an internal skeleton (backbone) and are large enough to be seen with the naked eye. Examples of macro invertebrates include: crayfish, snails, clams, aquatic worms, leeches, and the larval and nymph stages of many insects, including dragonflies, mosquitoes, and mayflies.

