



# Invasive Investigators

Outdoor Class Game



## Lesson Name: Don't Move Firewood!

**Outcome:** This lesson will help engage students to explore the consequences of moving firewood over long distances, an action that seriously threatens the Wabanaki - Acadian Forest Region.

### Preparations:

- Plan a space for this activity. An outdoor space is ideal but an inside open space will work.
- Gather twigs from a nearby source ahead of the lesson. The sticks you gather for this game should be easily separated into two categories, short and long. There should be an equal number of both categories in total. Gather enough bundles for each student (minus 5 students). Each student bundle should have 5 sticks, dividing the sizes doesn't have to be equal in each bundle. Choose 5 locations around the room. Be prepared to assign 5 students to be *Location Leaders*.
- Print and assemble 5 of these "3C.3 Game Materials\_\_ EAB Investigator" chatterboxes (informally known as fortune tellers). Circle a unique question to ask on each chatterbox.
- Print 5 "3C.2 Game Materials Location Posters" and have sticky tack or tape ready to mount them.

- Move to the game space and set up the five "Location posters".
- Assign 5 students to be *Location Leaders* and show each to their location. Give each a EAB Investigator chatterbox. Explain that their role is to reach the read the circled question to students who visit them when we start the game.
- Give all other students each a bundle of 5 sticks.
- Give instructions to students:
  - A. As fast as you can, each person must go to each location. (Encourage students to start a different locations to avoid crowding one location.)
  - B. At each location the *location leader* will ask a question.
    - ⇒ If a student answers the question right, the location leader will ask the student to leave a stick behind.
    - ⇒ If a student answers the question wrong, the location leader will not take a stick.

- C. The winning team has no sticks left or the fewest number.
- D. Call the group into a circle but ask the location leaders to leave sticks where at their locations.
- Stand in a circle to wrap up. Explain that all of the sticks they were carrying around were firewood. The long sticks represented those from trees that were sick with EAB, while the short ones were from healthy trees. Have a discussion about that is actually how hard it can be to tell if firewood is sick because even sick logs can look healthy.
  - Walk to each location to see how many EAB firewood logs were at each. Talk about how people are the ones that move invasive species around and how the trees in this area might now get sick.
  - Wrap up message: Its important to not move firewood further than we have to because its not obvious which logs are sick and we may accidentally take insects to new areas and hurt important trees that are important to our forested land.

This project was undertaken with the financial support of:

Ce project a été réalisé avec l'appui financier de:



Environment and  
Climate Change Canada

Environnement et  
Changement climatique Canada



This lesson was adapted from the concept and materials designed by the [United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service](#) from the "Stop the Beetle: Now!" educator tool. The addition of location posters was done by the PEIISC. The EAB chatterbox resource was left unchanged.