



Invasive Investigators

Class Field Trip + Partner Activity



Lesson Name: Make a Field Report - Forest Field Trip

Outcome: Students will spend time in the Acadian forest and will be encouraged to make their own observations on the associated populations of plants and animals they find while they are out.

Preparations:

- Bring: one fabric measuring tape and student field note books (small note pads of any kind will do). Students will be divided in pairs so only need half the number of students. Make sure each student group has a pencil (not pens as they will run when wet).
- Print “B.2 Forest Field Trip - Brochure” brochure for classroom hunt, one for each group.
- Be prepared to enter iNaturalist report, on smart board for all to see if possible.

- Arrive on site and ask your class to gather in a circle. Partner students up in groups of two-three. Pass out a “field book” book and pencil to each group.
 - Have students put their names on the front sheet and ask them to put the date.
- Walk around as a group and talk about what makes our Acadian Forest unique. Start by pointing out that we have a mix of:
 - Evergreen trees, which have leaves stay green year round. Evergreen leaves are usually needle shaped and the tree is often shapes like a cone (or pylon).
 - Deciduous trees, which loose their leaves each year when it gets cold. Deciduous leaves have broad leaves—a maple leaf is an example of a broad leaf!
- Find a tree to make your first note on together, walk students through the process:
 - Label these notes as Entry “1.”
 - Write down what kind of plant is this “Tree” Is it an evergreen or deciduous tree?
 - Record the location by using your phone map, hold your finger down on your current location and it should provide coordinates.
 - Does the tree look healthy? (Are the leaves all the same color, is there sap leaking)?
 - How big around is this tree? (Measure together, this can tell us how old a tree is).
 - Take pictures! The whole tree, a picture of the bark and a picture of the leaves.

- Give each group a “B.2 Forest Field Trip - Brochure” and point out the scavenger hunt list and also the invasive species on the back. Depending on your location allow them to branch off in their groups and explore. Or you can decide to all walk together and look for things along the way as a group. When students find something interesting, ask them to take a few notes in their book like how tall is it or how many there were and if it looked healthy.
 - *Encourage them to walk on the path to avoid trampling plants.
 - *Warn students about handling plants because some can be irritating to skin.
 - *Warn students not to eat berries, there are some very poisonous but tasty looking berries in nature.
- If you see an invasive species in the field, gather students to make a record together and take pictures. Some invasive species outbreaks can be quite extensive so don't worry about recording each one, if there are too many to report, make note of that in your field book!
- After exploring return to the classroom. Learn about iNaturalist, explore its distribution maps by looking around your school and seeing what has been reported. Then go to the area where your class was exploring, enter a report together. If you did not find any invasives, report that first tree you explored together. You do not need to know the ID to make a report, iNaturalist will suggest an ID for you based on its AI program. *If you would like your report to be verified by our staff and a response sent to your students, please send us an email notifying us of your report.

This project was undertaken with the financial support of:

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



Environment and
Climate Change Canada

Environnement et
Changement climatique Canada

