

Field Study Planner

Overview

Field Study:	Pond bioblitz	Conceptual Lens:	Senses
Description:	<p>In this field study, students will participate in a bioblitz, an event that focusses on finding and identifying as many organisms as possible within a certain time frame. First, students will explore the pond ecosystem and search for interesting organisms. Next, students will use a Pond ID Card to identify which organisms are in the pond. Then, each student will select an organism to study and ask questions that can be answered through observation alone. They ask simple questions about the organism's obvious structures, then move onto questions about organism's behavior, habitat and relationships to other organisms. Students share out with partners and then the whole group has a discussion about <i>organisms sense and respond to their environment</i> (Reference: Beetles). Finally, students participate in citizen science by sharing their data with other field study groups.</p>		
Duration:	4	Season:	Spring

Stage 1 – Desired Results

Big Ideas

organisms sense and respond to their environment (Science 4).

Cheakamus Centre Principles

the field study reflect Cheakamus Centre Principles (Place, Community, Inquiry, Personal Connections, and First Peoples' Perspectives)

Students will explore and make observations about organisms within the pond ecosystem.

Students will ask questions that can be answered through observation.

Goal: Students participate in citizen science by sharing data with other field study groups.

Alignment Check:

Are your concepts, unit understandings, transfer goals, and essential questions connected and supportive of your Big Idea?

Curricular Competencies

Students will be skilled at...

- demonstrate curiosity about the natural world
- ask and pose questions that lead to investigations
- use appropriate tools to make observations and measurements
- make observations about living & non-living things in the local environment
- collect and analyze data
- describe & interpret the local environment
- explain simple environmental implications of their & others' actions
- demonstrate respect to care for self, others, & community through personal or collective approaches
- reflect on personal, shared, others' experience of place

Content

Students will know that...

- the ways organisms in a pond ecosystem sense and respond to their environment
- structure and functions of body parts associated with each of the 5 senses
- environment: interdependence and adaptation: structural (e.g. how organisms adapt to pond ecosystem); behavioural adaptation (e.g. response to light, water etc.); response to changes in habitat (e.g. pollution, water levels); and a worldview with respect to the environment (e.g. interconnectedness of all things & responsibility to care for the environment).

Stage 2 – Evidence: Assessing for Understanding

Assess: Field Study

Formative:

Assessments for students to show their knowledge and skills during the field study

Teachers should consider how formative assessment in outdoor learning is informal, varied, and ongoing throughout the field study.

Use prior knowledge:

Use Mind-map

Walk to pond:

What is a pond? Bigger than _____, smaller than _____

What are some questions you have about ponds & the organisms that live there?

Students will demonstrate their knowledge, skills & understanding by:

• collect organism samples

• describe the pond in a sensory way (smell, hearing, sight)

Summative:

Final assessments of knowledge and skills at the end of the Field Study

Teachers should consider how summative assessments revisit essential questions, involve self-reflection, and builds towards Final Task

Final group circle question options:

1. What is a pond?
2. How did I notice (observe) the pond organisms?
3. What did I notice (observe) in this field study?
4. How do pond organisms sense and respond to their environment?
5. What questions do I still have about ponds and the organisms that live there?

Stage 3 – Executing the Learning Plan

Learning events/activities are suggested activities. Teachers should add, revise, and adapt based on the needs of their students, their own personal preferences, available resources, and a variety of instructional techniques.

Beginning the lesson

Engage senses Mind-map

Ask students to think about their senses and the important information they provide. The following sequence of questions and discussion is a guide.

- What senses do you have? What sense organs do you use for each one?
- Why is it important to have these senses?
- Living things use their senses to survive. What are some examples of animals using their senses?
- Do all these animals use their senses in the same way?
- Pond organisms are animals too. How do pond organisms' senses compare with your own senses?

Engage the Pond Bioblitz!

What is a bioblitz?

A *Bioblitz* is an event that focuses on finding and identifying as many species as possible in a specific area over a short period of time.

Tell the students that today we will find and interview an organism. We will learn about how some pond organisms sense the world around them. We will discuss how their sense organs are different than ours and what this tells us about how the organism lives.

Engage to be interviewers (15 minutes)

Today, we'll find and interview an organism. Tell students they're going to explore and check out a bunch of pond organisms in the Pond bioblitz. Explain that they're going to "interview" to learn more about it. That means asking the organisms questions that can be answered by looking more closely at the organism, since it can't talk!

Model an interview of a person in which person can't talk. Choose a student volunteer (or counsellor) and explain that you're going to show some questions that can be asked by "interviewing" this volunteer. The person won't answer back verbally. Instead, you'll observe the volunteer closely and ask your own questions. For example,

What colour eyes do you have? I see you have greenish brownish eyes.

How tall are you? Let's see, you're about one foot shorter than me.

What are you doing? Hmmm...you seem to be standing still, fidgeting a little bit, you keep looking over at the wall, interesting...

What are you thinking? Oops! That's not a question that can be answered.

Explain the difference between simple and deeper questions – both are useful in an interview.

Simple questions can be answered immediately through observation, and don't have very long answers, e.g. what colour is it? How big is it? What are the main structures of its body? (have students brainstorm some more simple questions)

Deeper questions need more time for observation, and include the organism's relationship to its habitat and to other organisms, e.g. what is it doing any are here? Do they hang out together? What is the climate like in its habitat? (Have students brainstorm some more deep questions).

Engage the Bioblitz toolkit

Arrange students in teams of 2-3. Give each team a net & a small bucket. Tell students that we are going on a short walk to the Canoe Pond, where we will conduct the bioblitz.

Engage to the Canoe Pond (10 minutes)

Ask students walk & talk questions while walking to the pond. e.g. What is a Pond? Bigger than a _____, smaller than a _____. What are some questions you have about ponds and the organisms that live there?

Students record questions & answers as they observe organisms. Circulate as students conduct their interviews, and make sure they are asking both deep questions. If students are having trouble coming up with questions, remind them to consider the organisms' habitat and surroundings. Make sure students use both drawing and writing to record information.

Individuals share observations and questions with each other. When students have had time to do an in-depth interview, call the groups together, and each team share their questions and observations with another team.

Group sharing & discussion: Ask a few students to share an interesting question or observation. Depending on what they say, consider leading a discussion about the difference and similarities between organisms, or make some observations together as a group.

Briefly discuss what adaptations aquatic organisms have to survive in the pond (relate to how living things sense and respond to their environment) **House Trivia:**

What are some of the things insects need to do to survive? (Avoid predators/enemies, find food and water, find a mate.) Are these the same as us? Can you think of an example of a pond organism using its sense of seeing/hearing/touch/smell/taste?

And organisms have evolved different sensory organs to do the same job as ours. So insects use the same senses as we do, but do they have the same sensory organs? (Yes and no.)

- A male mosquito can tell the difference between a female who is looking for a mate and one who has already laid her eggs by listening to her wingbeat!
- Have you ever been to a 3D movie? Some 3D movies, the ones with 3D goggles that look like sunglasses, take advantage of the fact that we cannot see the polarization of light, but many insects can. This helps them to navigate.
- Most insects and spiders taste with their feet. That is why flies like to walk around on your food.
- Water striders gliding on the surface of a pond use their sense of touch to detect ripples from predators or prey, much like a spider uses her feet.
- Insects can use their antennae as feelers, but the main function of antennae is smell! Many insects also have olfactory receptors (a fancy way of saying "noses") on their feet.
- Insect ears are all over the place! For example, grasshoppers have ears on their knees, praying mantises have them on their bellies, and crickets have them at the base of their antennae.
- An insect's eyes are called compound eyes. They are made up of many little lenses, instead of one big lens (like our eyes have). They can see detail as well as us, but they have some advantages: butterflies can see more colors than us, bees can see something called the polarization of light, and horseflies can respond to movements much, much faster than people can!
- Insects can taste with their mouth, just like us, but most also taste with their feet. Would you want to taste the inside of your shoes?

the Organism (to be completed before or after interview)

All students they'll use the Pond ID card to identify their organism.

Demonstrate how to use the Pond ID card.

Students use the cards in teams to figure out what their organism is.

Circulate, trouble-shoot, be a co-investigator, and ask questions.

Findings

Students share what organisms they found. Write list of organisms on white board. Summarize results:

What aquatic organisms live in the pond?

Where do we find the organisms? –shallow zone, middle/open water, bottom sediment (mud or sand?), near shoreline

Diversity: - what species were found in pond?

How does this compare to data collected by other field study groups (citizen science)?

Focus the discussion on the relationship between organisms

Can we construct a food chain with organisms found (on whiteboard)?

Wrap it up

Today, we learned about how pond organisms use their senses in different ways, using some of the same sense organs and some different ones. Can you tell me one of the senses that's the same in you and a pond organism? One that's different?

Revisit Essential Questions: Circle debrief. *What is a pond? How did I notice (observe) the pond organisms? What did I notice (observe) in this field? How do pond organisms sense and respond to their environment? What questions do I still have about ponds and the organisms that live in them?*

Encourage students to keep interviewing organisms while at Cheakamus Centre. Emphasize to students that they now have skills they can use with any organism anytime, and that scientists do this all the time. Ask students to think about simple and deep questions they could ask of organisms they encounter.

