

Earthkeeper's Challenge

Individual Activities

Sparks – Do one from this section

Brownies – Do two from this section

Guides, Pathfinders, and Senior Branches - Do three from this section

1. Create something useful from recycled materials. Items made could be used for a game (beanbags, ring toss) or a gift (picture frame, flowerpot).
2. Observe the eating habits of birds, food preferences and locations of where they find their food. What birds visit your neighbourhood? What birds migrate and which ones stay for the winter?
3. Find out what plants and animals are endangered in B C. Choose one species that is threatened or no longer present in your area. Explain (in a story) or illustrate (using a poster), what you think has caused its disappearance and what could be done to encourage its return (more parks, treed streets etc.).
4. Where does the water used in your home come from? (well, lake, municipal watershed in the mountains) In a notebook, record water usage in your household for a month. Evaluate how you could better conserve water use, and explain three ways to decrease the whole family water consumption. What is in your wastewater and where does it go?

Unit Activities (Use one of your choices as a Bridging Activity)

Sparks – Do three from this section

Brownies – Do five from this section

Guides – Do seven from this section

Pathfinders, and Senior Branches -Do nine from this section

1. Visit a neighbourhood park, stream, lake, marsh, bog, grassland, or forest and learn about the plants and animals that live there. Record what you observe.
2. Visit a tree farm, bird sanctuary, fish hatchery, game farm, bird or animal care facility and learn about the role they fulfill in protecting wildlife.
3. Participate in a camp with a “Nature” theme. (Critters, wild places, the water’s edge, bird buddies etc.)
4. Play a Project Wild game using the components of an animal’s “Habitat” (food, water, shelter, and a place to raise their young). Or, a game demonstrating the inter-connections between living and non-living things (food webs).
5. Play a Project Wet game about the “Water Cycle.” Discuss some things that affect the quality of our water – for plants and animals as well as for people.

6. Learn a song or read a story about animals, water, or recycling.
7. Choose a “community event” that you can participate in. Create a display using posters, banners and hands-on activities to promote the idea/theme “Guiding is Environmentally Aware.”
8. Have a catch and release bug hunt using an insect identification book to put a name to them. Look for worms and slugs, and discuss the role these creatures play as decomposers (converting dead and decaying material into healthy soil). Or, try dip netting to capture bugs from streams, marshes, or ponds. Discuss what these creatures do in the winter.
9. Find out what would be appropriate for the species in your area, and build one of the following:
 - a birdhouse or bird feeder
 - a bat roosting box
 - a duck nesting box,
 - a Mason bee box,
 - a butterfly house.
10. Celebrate one of the following: National Wildlife Week (2nd week of April)
 Earth Day (week of April 22)
 Pitch In – litter chase (1st week of May)
 Environment Week (1st week of June)
 Oceans Day (1st week of June)
 B C Rivers Day (last Sun. in Sept.)
11. Consider joining an environmental project and supporting a hands-on conservation activity, such as Stream or beach cleanup, or Storm Drain Marking Program. Or, investigate participating in “Frog Watch,” annual bird counts, or the “Coast-to-Coast Butterfly Survey.”
12. Find out where your garbage goes and what materials are recycled in your community. Take action to add items that may not be recycled in your community such as cardboard, plastics, milk cartons, juice containers. When buying products reduce packaging as much as possible. Find out how company policies have changed due to consumer awareness or government regulations. Discuss what happens when waste materials are not properly disposed of. Conduct an experiment to find out how long things take to decompose (paper, plastic, aluminum, cloth, food, etc.)
13. Attend a City Council meeting where an environmental issue related to future development is being discussed. Investigate what natural wildlife and plant habitats have been destroyed by these changes.
14. Visit a fish hatchery, a sawmill, mine, or other site that harvests natural resources. Prepare questions ahead of time to ask your tour guide. What measures are being taken by industry and/or government to conserve these resources for future use?
15. Create an outside game using recyclable materials, (such as a mini-golf course, a croquet course. BE IMAGINATIVE! You might want to share this activity with another unit or as a bridging activity. Or, make a junk band using recycled materials (Drums, shakers, and chimes) and then try to play a tune with your Unit