



Natural History and Environmental Education Programs for schools and groups

These programs have been developed to meet and complement BC curriculum. They are grouped by general topic. Detailed descriptions are provided below (listed alphabetically).

We are flexible! Programs can be modified to fit your specific curriculum, location and budget. Most programs are approximately 1.5 hours in length. Actual length can depend on class interest, weather and time availability. If you have an idea for a program that is not on this list, please feel free to get in touch with us at res@island.net or 250-725-2560.

Travels and costs

We travel to schools in Ucluelet, Esowista, Tofino, Opitsat, Ahousaht and Hot Springs Cove regularly. Except when specific funding will cover program costs, we charge \$2 per student (schools are billed once annually for all programs). This cost is subsidized by local Tofino and Ucluelet businesses and individual donors.

For visiting groups, costs depend upon location of program, size of group, and program supplies required. Costs typically vary from \$75 - \$150 per program, and cover classroom rental (if necessary), program supplies, and naturalists' time.

Coastal Temperate Rainforest

Recipe for a Rainforest
Ethnobotany Experience
Secrets in the Soil

Tree Programs

Wildlife Trees (aka "The Living Dead")
Tree ID
Life in a Log

Plant Programs

Secret Life of Plants
Leaf Printing
Seeds on the Move

Ecology and Biodiversity Programs

Hishuk ish Ts'awalk (Everything is Connected)
Biodiversity Scavenger Hunt
Miniature Ecosystems
Rain, Rain Go Away!

Seasonal Programs

Signs of Fall

Wildlife Programs

Animal Tracks (a.k.a. Who's Been Here?)
Predator and Prey (aka Cougars & Bears & Elk, Oh My!)
Living with Wildlife (Bear Aware)
Bats in the Belfry

Wildlife Programs

Who Gives a Hoot About Owls?
This One is for the Birds
Creepy Crawlies
Slugs, Slime, Sublime

Wetlands Programs

More than Just Mud
Marsh Mucking

Marine Programs

Intertidal Exploration
Build a Kelp Forest
Pacific Salmon
A West Coast Fish Tale
A Whale's Tale
Polluted Oceans Program
Shark Tales

Community Programs

Community Mapping

Species at Risk

Life and Times of the Sea Otter
Ancients of the Deep (Rockfish Program)
Species at Risk – Orca Whales

Sustainable Living Programs

Recycle a Tree (Paper Making Program)
Energy Footprints

PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

Coastal Temperate Rainforest Programs

Recipe for a Rainforest (K-12, Indoor/Outdoor)

Our backyard is the lush coastal temperate rainforest. Lots of rain, large coniferous trees with moss-laden branches, nurse logs and much, much more! Discover some of the characteristics that make this ecosystem so unique as we stroll down a local rainforest trail.

Ethnobotany Experience (Indoor/Outdoor)

Ethnobotany is the study of the relationships between people and plants. Cedar bark, salal berries, licorice fern... there are many different plants in the temperate rainforest that have been used by local First Nations for food, medicinal, spiritual and ceremonial purposes for generations. This hands-on program aims to promote awareness and stimulate discussion of traditional plant uses, and to introduce concepts of vegetative inventory, sampling and monitoring.

Secrets in the Soil Program (K-7, Indoor/Outdoor)

It's not just dirt! It's home to millions of microscopic creatures. Find out what makes up our soil and learn why it is so important. You'll never look at soil in the same way again!

Tree Programs

Wildlife Tree (a.k.a. The Living Dead) (K-7, Indoor)

Have you noticed all the dead and decaying trees in the forest? These trees are an important part of the forest ecosystem. Learn more about these fascinating habitats by exploring a tree in your classroom! Costumes, games and discussions help students to understand the importance of wildlife trees as unique and special habitats for a variety of plants and animals.

Tree ID (K-7, Outdoor)

Is it a cedar, a spruce or a hemlock? Stroll down a local rainforest trail and learn to identify some of the common coniferous and deciduous tree species of the coastal temperate rainforest and the characteristics that make them unique.

Life in a Log (K-7, Indoor)

Have you noticed all of the fallen and decaying trees on the forest floor? They may not be alive, but they are packed with a variety of life! Learn about these fascinating habitats by making your own edible nurse log (great program for special events!).

Plant Programs

Leaf Printing (K-4, Indoor)

Salal! Ferns! Huckleberries! Spring is the time when new leaves appear. What are they for? How can you tell them apart? Learn firsthand how to identify a variety of west coast plants by making leaf prints.

Secret Life of Plants (K-3, Indoor/Outdoor)

Plants do many things we do – eat, breath, drink and reproduce – except they do it differently. Investigate and learn more about the lives of local rainforest plants.

Describe the anatomy of plants and their requirements, and identify local plant species

Seeds on the Move (K-3, Outdoor)

Seeds are the means by which new plants get started in the rainforest. Explore some of the fascinating seeds found in the rainforest and the various ways they get around.

Ecology and Biodiversity Programs

Hishuk ish Ts'awalk (Everything is Connected) (K-7, Indoor/Outdoor)

What makes our coastal temperate rainforest so special? Hishuk ish ts'awalk – Everything is One. Learn more about this Nuu-chah-nulth philosophy, and the interconnected web of life here on the coast through games and activities.

Biodiversity Scavenger Hunt (3-7, Outdoor)

Coastal temperate rainforests support more than 4500 species of plants and animals. Explore the diversity of life in the forest on an exciting scavenger hunt.

Miniature Ecosystems (3-7, Outdoor)

The forest floor houses a variety of tiny wonders. Learn about the little things and develop your mapping skills by exploring your own miniature rainforest ecosystem.

Rain, Rain, Go Away!!! (K-3, Indoor)

We may not always appreciate the wonder and value of rain on the wet coast. But without it, our forest would change drastically. Learn more about the importance of the water cycle and watersheds through games and activities.

Seasonal Programs

Signs of Fall (K-7, Indoor/Outdoor)

Open cones and migratory birds. Our rainforests are always green but everywhere we look there are signs that the seasons are changing. Discover what this means for the plants, animals and humans that live in this forest through a fun-filled scavenger hunt!

Wildlife Programs

Animal Tracks (aka. Who's Been Here?) (K-7, Indoor/Outdoor)

All animals leave signs that they've been passing through. Learn to be a forest detective! Find out more about animal tracks through a variety of games and activities.

Predator and Prey (aka Cougars & Bears & Elk, Oh My!) (2-7, Outdoor)

The rainforest is home to many large animals including cougars, bears and elk. Find out more about these animals and their requirements through games and activities.

Living with Wildlife (Bear Aware) (K-7, Indoor)

We are lucky to live in such close proximity to wild areas and wildlife. However, if we aren't careful, our simple day-to-day actions, like taking out the garbage and walking our dog can disturb these creatures. This program provides students with some useful tips to help live in harmony with our natural neighbours and to minimize potential impacts and disturbance.

Bats in the Belfry (K-7, Indoor)

Do bats drink blood? Are they blind? Learn about local bats species and find out the truth about these fascinating creatures of the night!

Who Gives a Hoot About Owls? (K-7, Indoor)

Through a variety of crafts and activities this program introduces students to the 7 species of owls found on Vancouver Island, and to some of their unique characteristics and adaptations.

This One is for the Birds (K-7, Indoor/Outdoor)

A wonderful way to involve school classes in the annual Shorebird Festival, this program helps students to build the skills needed to observe and ID some of the birds found here in the temperate rainforest. Through hands on activities, students explore and learn about how bird anatomy and behaviour is related to their survival in their environment.

Creepy Crawlies (2-5, Indoor/Outdoor)

Enjoy this hands-on approach to discovering local insects and other creepy crawlies and learn more about their importance to the forest.

Slugs, slime, sublime (K-3, Indoor/Outdoor)

What has one long foot and hundreds of teeth on it's tongue? A slug! Though often considered a garden pest, native slugs play an important role in local ecosystems. Learn more about the second largest species of slug in the world (the banana slug), how they eat, deter predators and much more!

Wetlands Programs

More than Just Mud (K-7, Outdoor)

Though often unappreciated, mudflats are dynamic and fascinating places. Explore plant and animal life along the shores of the Tofino Mudflats Wildlife Management Area. Collect and observe ghost shrimp, identify migratory birds and study this unique ecosystem through a hands-on outdoor experience.

Marsh Mucking (K-7, Indoor/Outdoor)

Wetlands are important habitats for many plants and animals. Learn about your local marsh by going dip-netting for creatures that live there.

Marine Programs

Intertidal Exploration (K-12, Indoor/Outdoor)

When the tide retreats a fascinating display of plants and animals can be viewed. Who are they? What do they eat? How are they adapted for life at the seashore. Discover their stories as we explore local tide pools.

Build a Kelp Forest (K-7, Indoor/Outdoor)

Believe it or not, large seaweeds like bull kelp and giant kelp have quite a bit in common with trees on land. Learn more about these intriguing 'forests of the sea', by building your own kelp forest in the classroom or on the beach.

Pacific Salmon (K-7, Outdoor)

Pacific salmon are one the most important fish species in B.C. Find out more about these amazing fish and their importance in coastal ecosystems through fun-filled games!

A West Coast Fish Tale (K-7, Indoor)

Salmon! Rockfish! Cod! Who are they? Where do they live? Learn first hand about west coast fish by making fish prints.

A Whale's Tale (K-7, Indoor)

Gray whales make one of the longest migrations of any mammal on earth, and they are coming our way! Discover more about these interesting creatures through games and activities.

Polluted Oceans Program (K-7, Outdoor)

Learn about and investigate the effects of pollution on marine life and participate in a beach clean-up!

Sharks Tale (K-7)

Sharks aren't really the scary man-eaters we think they are! Learn about the biology of different species of sharks found in our waters (yes we have sharks around here) and how sharks are truly an important part of the marine ecosystem.

Community Programs

School Yard Mapping (3-7, Outdoor)

What makes your school yard so special? Develop mapping skills while finding out about the wildlife and plant communities that live in your own school grounds.

Species at Risk

Life and Times of the Sea Otter (K-7, Indoor)

Through games and activities enter the underwater world of the sea otter. Learn about their natural history, how they are adapted for life in the ocean, and the important role they play as a 'keystone species' in coastal ecosystems.

Ancients of the Deep (Rockfish Program) (K-7, Indoor)

Through hands on activities and a video, learn about the unique biology and morphology of this fascinating fish and why it is currently at risk. Encourage students to help conserve them

Species at Risk – A Look at Orca Whales (3-7, Indoor)

This program introduces students to the concept of Species at Risk using the Orca Whale as a case study. Through activities and discussions students learn about how a species becomes at risk and what people can do to help them recover.

Climate Change and Sustainable Living Programs

Recycle a Tree (Paper Making Program) (K-7, Indoor)

Reduce, reuse, recycle! The best way to learn about recycling is to try it yourself! Through discussions and crafts this fun and creative program allows students to develop an understanding of the recycling process by making their own paper.

Energy Footprints (K-7, Indoor)

Explore the relationships between electricity production and the environment in a fun interactive program about responsible energy use. Through games and activities discover how we can save energy in the school and at home! Learn about renewable energy sources by making a simple pizza box solar oven and testing it out! Mmmm...

Thanks so much for your time and interest!

Please feel free to contact Lisa Fletcher at the Raincoast Interpretive Centre if you have any comments, ideas or suggestions.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Email: (res@island.net), Ph: 725-2560, Fax: 725-2435