

Introduction to Animals of the Southern Gulf Islands

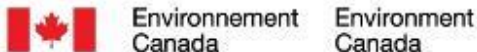


This lesson plan was produced by the Mayne Island Conservancy Society in 2016 as part of the Nature Discovery Project

Funding for was provided by:



Ce projet a été réalisé avec l'appui financier de :
This project was undertaken with the financial support of:



Ages: 5-9

Activity Energy: Low

Length of time: 40-60 minutes

Number of Participants: 1 - 30

Indoor/Outdoor: Indoor or Both

Concept: A PowerPoint presentation has been produced to introduce many of the common animal species found in the Southern Gulf Islands, and to describe some major differences between birds, mammals, amphibians, and reptiles. This lesson is presented as a rainy day activity that can foster discussion about animals and what they need to survive and reproduce, and recommended to be used as a pre-fieldtrip lesson before going to the beach or on a hike to observe animals in their natural habitats.

Materials Required: Projector and screen. Laptop and speakers. Any and all show and tell items you can gather prior to the lesson; for example skulls, feathers, bird nests, snake skins, antlers, animal bones etc.

Introduction: Animals are a fascinating subject for young students. Learning about animals the students will actually see in the wild can add value to their outdoor experiences and their understanding of the natural world. The goal of the lesson is to change the way students think when they see an animal. We want them to start asking questions like: What is the animal doing? Is it trying to find food? What does it eat? How does the way it looks help it to survive and reproduce? What eats this animal? How does it survive the winter? Where does it live?

Methods:

- Use the PowerPoint (see other files associated with this lesson) as a basis for discussion about local animals. There are about 35 slides, and the time it takes to complete the lesson will depend largely on the amount of discussion that takes place. In some cases it may be best to deliver the lesson over two sessions depending on time and student attention.
- There are three short activities embedded in the PowerPoint such as drawing an animal, measuring the students "wingspan" to match them with a relatively sized bird, and a drawing activity to help the students think about camouflage. We encourage you to come up with your own follow-up activities, for example: research projects, story writing, and of course field trips for wildlife viewing.

Tips for Teachers:

- There are notes on each slide of the PowerPoint to help guide your discussion and provide some facts to answer student questions. Having some reference books available during the lesson can help with answering the more difficult questions. Lone Pine Publishing has

produced a very good series of field guides covering local animals:

http://www.lonepinebooks.com/index-legacy.php?a=view_cat

- We couldn't hope to ever cover all of the animals that live within the Southern Gulf Islands in one lesson, so we encourage you and your students to find out more about local non-human inhabitants!
- Museums, natural history societies, and land conservancies are often a great resource for borrowing bones and other show and tell items.
- Please feel free to modify the PowerPoint to suit the needs of your class

Background facts and information:

- See the notes in the PowerPoint for facts and information.

Literature Cited:

The following sources of information were used to create the facts in the PowerPoint:

Baron, N., & Acorn, J. (1997). *Birds of the Pacific northwest coast*. Renton, Wash.: Lone Pine.

Campbell, N., & Reece, J. (2005). *Biology (7th ed.)*. San Francisco: Pearson, Benjamin Cummings.

Corkran, C., & Thoms, C. (1996). *Amphibians of Oregon, Washington and British Columbia: A field identification guide*. Vancouver, B.C.: Lone Pine Pub.

Cowan, I., & Guiguet, C. (1965). *The mammals of British Columbia* ([Rev.]. ed.). Victoria: [British Columbia Provincial Museum].

John, A. (2002). *Reptiles of the Northwest*. Renton, Wash.: Lone Pine Pub.

Shackleton, D., & Cowan, I. (1999). *Hoofed mammals of British Columbia*. Vancouver: UBC Press.