



Teacher's Guide

Overview

This year's Earth Week theme is Planet Vs. Plastic. Through two video presentations prepared by our guest experts, Grade 6 students will learn about plastics and how they impact local habitats and biodiversity, and what we can do to help. Accompanying each video will be a downloadable challenge PDF for students and families to try either in the classroom or at home. These challenges will help students become environmental stewards and connect directly to the content of each planet vs. plastics presentation.

Video presentations from our guest experts will be available for viewing on the [Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre's Online Education Centre](#) on **On Monday April 22nd**, and will be available for the remainder of the year.

The Earth Week 2024 online program connects directly to the biodiversity strand of Ontario's Grade 6 Science and Technology curriculum.

Curriculum Connections: Understanding Life Systems – Biodiversity

- B1. Assess the importance of biodiversity, and describe ways of protecting biodiversity.
- B2. Demonstrate an understanding of biodiversity, its contributions to the stability of natural systems, and its benefits to humans.

Specific Expectations

- B1.1 assess the benefits of biodiversity and the consequences of the diminishing of biodiversity
- B1.2 analyse a local issue related to biodiversity while considering different perspectives; plan a course of action in response to the issue; and act on their plan
- B2.2 demonstrate an understanding of biodiversity as the diversity of life on Earth, including the diversity of organisms within species, among species in a community, and among communities and the habitats that support them
- B2.5 describe interrelationships within species, between species, and between species and their natural environment, and explain how these interrelationships sustain biodiversity
- B2.7 explain how climate change contributes to a loss of biodiversity, and describe the impact of this loss

Presenters



Mike Schwindt, Development Manager, is a passionate believer in the value of outdoor education, with a diverse professional background. After teaching for 10 years, Mike ran youth employment workshops, provided career counseling, managed health and safety, and provided educational programming virtually through the first year of COVID at the Bruce County Museum. Mike's role with the Foundation is to increase the use of the Bluewater Outdoor Education Centre in a sustainable manner, consistent with the goals of the Foundation and the founders of the Centre.

The Bluewater Education Foundation is a registered charitable organization that works at arms length to the Bluewater District School Board to support external programming, long-term maintenance, and growth of the Bluewater Outdoor Education Centre. This school year marks the 50th anniversary of the then Bruce County Board of Education's purchase of the Mason Farm to provide a permanent home for Outdoor Education in the region; together, the Foundation and the School Board are working and planning to ensure at least 50 more!



The Bluewater Outdoor Education Centre sits on approximately 320 acres, just east of Oliphant. The property boasts a diverse and varied ecosystem, ranging from marsh to hay fields to hardwood forest to cedar bush, with two very different waterfront areas, one on Boat Lake and one on Spry Lake. During the school year, the BOEC hosts grade 6 students for their overnight visit (we aim to bring every class in the Board!), along with high school Outers clubs and environmental science classes, grade 4's for day trips, and other classes at

teacher request. Outside of school time, the Foundation hosts Open Houses (every year on the Sunday after Thanksgiving, and Family Day with support from Terri Hastings Real Estate Team in Wiarton), PD Day programs, summer camps, and rentals from groups ranging from university courses to arts organizations.



Alyssa Bourassa – Alyssa Bourassa is the Executive Director (Interim) at the Lake Huron Coastal Centre. Before her current role, she was the Program Coordinator for their plastic pollution programs including beach clean-ups and microplastic research. She also coordinated the Coast Watchers community science data collection program. She has a double major degree in Environmental Science and Sustainability from Dalhousie University.

The Lake Huron Coastal Centre is a non-government charitable organization established in 1998 with the goals of protecting and restoring Lake Huron's coastal environment, and supporting a healthy coastal ecosystem through education, restoration, and research projects. The LHCC currently implements several programs, including Coast Watchers Community Science, Shoreline Cleanups, the Microplastic Awareness Project, Coastal Conservation Youth Corps (CCYC), and Green Ribbon Champion (GRC) beach restoration program. They also have projects managing invasive species, and restoring coastal wetlands and sand dunes. Outside of their projects they deliver many presentations to youth groups, municipalities, and cottagers' associations, and have developed a large library of coastal educational materials over the past 20 years.

www.lakehuron.ca

Instagram & Twitter: @coastalcentre

Facebook, LinkedIn, & YouTube: "Lake Huron Coastal Centre"

For more resources and ideas visit: [Earth Day Canada](#) ; [Earth Day International](#)

