OUTDOOR INVESTIGATIONS

THIS OUTDOOR EXPERIENCE GETS STUDENTS TO DISCOVER THE URBAN NATURE FOUND IN SCIENCE WORLD’S SCIENCE PARK. STUDENTS WILL ENGAGE DIRECTLY IN NATURE-RICH, SENSORY-BASED EXPLORATIONS OF LIFE AMONG THE GARDENS, TREES, POND AND EVEN THE CONCRETE! THIS PROGRAM RUNS RAIN OR SHINE, SO COME DRESSED FOR THE WEATHER.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IN THE WORKSHOP?
During Urban Nature Outdoor Investigations, our knowledgeable staff will guide observations of the plants, animals and natural history within our Science Park. Students will have an opportunity to share their observations, describing features and adaptations of living things, as they discover our rich urban biodiversity.

CLASSROOM ACTIVITY:
SCHOOLYARD BIODIVERSITY SENSORY MAP

In this activity, students use their senses to create a map of life found in the urban environment.

Adapted from Science World Resources | Backyard Sensory Map
scienceworld.ca/resources/activities/backyard-sensory-map

WHAT YOU NEED:
» Pencils
» Journals, or scrap paper on clipboards

WHAT TO DO:
1. This activity can take place in the schoolyard, a nearby park/green space, or a tree-lined quiet sidewalk. Students may wish to first draw a quick layout of the area, so that they have a base map to add their sounds, smells and sightings to.

2. As a group, ask students to gather in silence with their eyes closed. Have students draw a map of sounds they hear and where they are coming from—if they are unsure of the source of the sound, they can create notes or pictures of what the sound is like, or what it reminds them of. Prompt students to record whether they think sounds came from a human or not.

3. Next, have students sniff for smells, thinking about what might be making those smells. Have students draw or write out what they smell and where the smells are coming from. Ask students to include whether or not they think the smells came from a human source or not.

4. Then, have students look for interesting living things. Have students draw or write out what they saw. Ask students to include where things were sighted. Students may wish to make connections between the sounds and smells they listed earlier and the things they saw in the area.
MORE ABOUT BIODIVERSITY AT TELUS WORLD OF SCIENCE

Ken Spencer Science Park: Vegetable gardens, urban trees, insect hotel, pond
Search: Sarah Stern Gallery: Animal adaptations and living things
OMNIMAX® Theatre: *Amazon Adventure* film

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES:

» Science World Resources | Neighbourhood Scavenger Hunt
   scienceworld.ca/resources/activities/neighbourhood-scavenger-hunt

» Science World Resources | Insect Investigation
   scienceworld.ca/resources/activities/insect-investigation