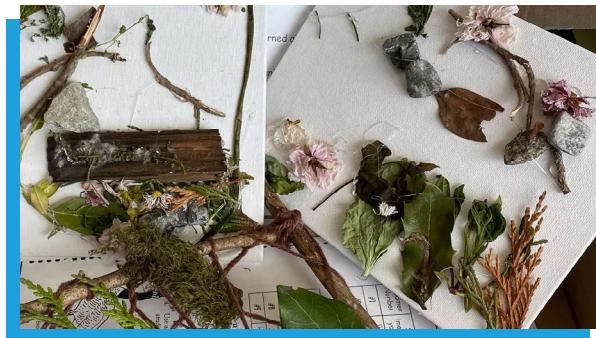
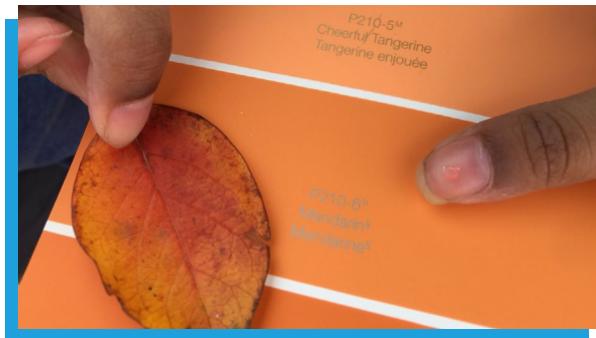




Environmental Exchange Box Ideas for Fall

**Do you only have time for one or two activities?
Here are a few ideas from some of our classes in the program.**



Colours in Nature

An inquiry into colours found in nature.

Class Activities

- Go outdoors to search for colours found in nature.
- Record and or graph the numbers of different colours found.

Student Activities

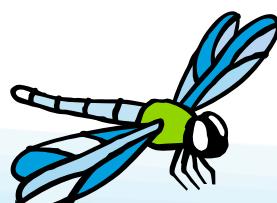
- Draw and colour the variety of colours found in nature.

Try This

- Do the Nature's Palette activity: hctfeducation.ca/file/natures-palette.pdf or Signs of Autumn hctfeducation.ca/file/signs-of-autumn.pdf

Contents for the Exchange Box

- List of all the colours found in nature.
- Drawings of nature with the colours.



Sensing Nature

A sensory exploration outdoors.

Class Activities

- Go outdoors to do a sensory activity using eyes to find tiny things; ears to hear variety of sound; hands to find things with different textures.
- Create a class list of all the tiny things, sounds, and textures.

Student Activities

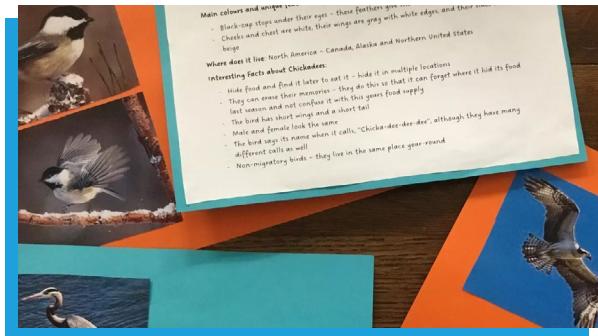
- Draw or write about their discoveries.

Try This

- Go on a Sense Walk or another mini sensory activities: hctfeducation.ca/file/sense-walk.pdf or hctfeducation.ca/file/mini-sensory.pdf

Contents for the Exchange Box

- A book about each student's discoveries.
- A checklist for hearing different sounds.
- Samples of things with different textures.



Bird Postcards

An inquiry project of local birds and their features, habitat and names given by the local Indigenous people.

Class Activities

- Go outdoors to observe local birds including their features and their habitat.
- Make a list of all the birds found with pictures and the Indigenous peoples name for them.

Student Activities

- Observe and record information about birds they see. Record bird observations with photos, illustrations, descriptions of outdoor observations.
- Find the Indigenous peoples name for the chosen bird.
- Create a postcard to send to your pen pal. Draw a bird on one side; information on the back. *Optional: Include a map of where bird is found.*

Try This

- Learn about bird behavior with one of these activities: Bird Behavior Bingo hctfeducation.ca/file/bird-bingo.pdf or Bird Beak Buffet hctfeducation.ca/file/bird-beak-buffet.pdf

Contents for the Exchange Box

- Postcards about selected birds
- Included map or drawing of where the bird was found (habitat).
- Shared the list of Indigenous people names for birds with pictures.



Mushroom Models

A student inquiry project into the local mushrooms.

Class Activities

- Go outdoors to locate where mushrooms are growing and make observations.
- Take pictures or draw the mushroom in its habitat.

Student Activities

- Make observations and create a plasticine model of a mushroom.
- Write a description about its features (appearance, colour, size, etc) and habitat such as where are they growing? What kind of environment did it live in?

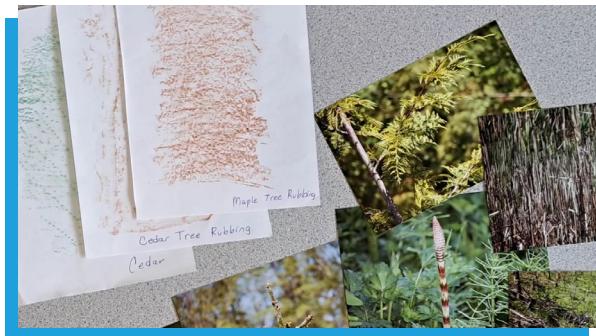
Try This

- Go on a fungi scavenger hunt: hctfeducation.ca/file/fungi-scavenger-hunt.pdf

Contents for the Exchange Box

- Plasticine models of various mushrooms.
- Images or illustrations of vegetation from the local forest.
- A challenge to the partner class to see if they could identify the different mushrooms from the models sent.





Trees and Their Leaves

An investigation of deciduous and coniferous tree leaves.

Class Activities

- Go outdoors to investigate and observe trees on the school grounds.
- Read about why trees shed their leaves in the fall from the book *Can You Hear the Trees Talking?*

Student Activities

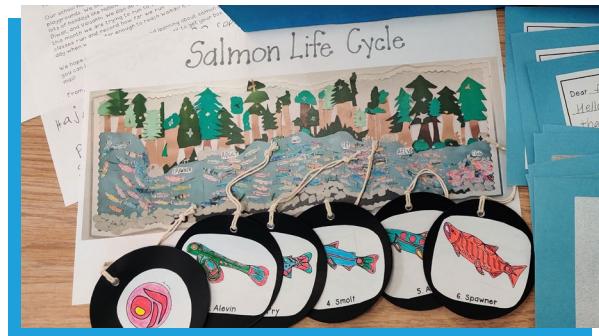
- Observe the differences and similarities of the coniferous and deciduous tree leaves and create leaf prints.
- Find out about the varieties of native tree that grow in your area.
- Make ink leaf print art.
- Preserve a few leaves with beeswax.

Try This

- Compare trees with this activity: hctfeducation.ca/file/comparing-trees.pdf

Contents for the Exchange Box

- Ink leaf print art.
- Samples of a few leaves preserved with beeswax.



Spawning Salmon

A field trip to a salmon spawning river.

Class Activities

- Go outdoors on a field trip to the local salmon spawning river.

Student Activities

- Note and record observations on salmon and surrounding ecosystem (e.g., draw river, trees, water ripples, rocks, fallen trees, etc.).
- Write letters to exchange class about the field trip.
- Write (or draw) what the salmon ecosystem should look like in order for the salmon to survive.

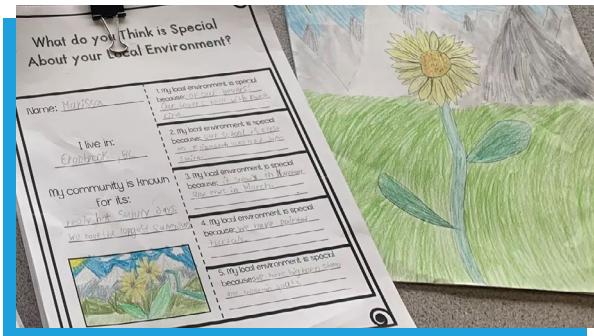
Try This

- Play a salmon game with one of these activities: hctfeducation.ca/file/dinner-for-two.pdf or hctfeducation.ca/file/kokane-spawning-adventure.pdf

Contents for the Exchange Box

- Letters about the salmon field trip.
- Photos of the being incubated in classroom tanks from Salmon in the Classroom program.
- Drawings of the key ecosystem features that salmon need for survival throughout their life cycle.





Our Local Place

Creating a brochure about the local environment and town.

Class Activities

- Go outdoors for a walk in the neighborhood and record special features that make our local place special.
- Take photos of your local places.
- Create a class multimedia presentation.

Student Activities

- Create a brochure describing their favourite local place or feature — environment, town, or other special things to share.
- Make slides or visuals for the presentation (e.g Power Point, Google slides, etc.).

Try This

- Find out what your local ecoprovince is in this activity hctfeducation.ca/file/ecoprovinces-of-bc.pdf or this Backyard Biodiversity Bingo hctfeducation.ca/file/backyard-bingo.pdf

Contents for the Exchange Box

- Student-made brochures of the local place.
- Thumb drive or shared link of the class or individual group presentation about their local place.

Leaf Creatures

Creating leaf creatures out of natural materials in our outdoor classroom inspired by the book *Leaf Man* by Lois Ehlert.

Class Activities

- Read the book the *Leaf Man*.
- Go outdoors to look for various leaves.

Student Activities

- Create the creatures according to the book instructions.
- Take photos of the creatures, print, and laminate.
- Make invitation for partner class to recreate them.

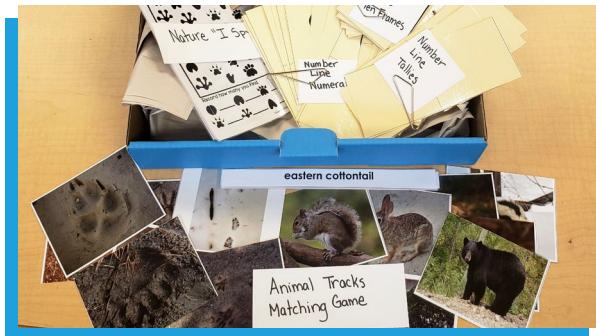
Try This

- Look for biodiversity in your area with Biodiversity Clues hctfeducation.ca/file/biodiversity-clues-cards.pdf or record observations with Creating Nature Journal hctfeducation.ca/file/creating-a-nature-journal.pdf

Contents for the Exchange Box

- Photos of the "leaf creatures".
- Invitation for partner class to recreate them.





Patterns in Nature

Explore patterns in nature.

Class Activities:

- Go outdoors and observe patterns in nature such as symmetry, cracks, branching, spots, stripes etc.
- Create temporary patterns in nature and take photos of them.
- Record patterns with drawings, photos or written descriptions.

Student Activities

- Create a class book with illustrations and descriptions of the various patterns they found or created outdoors.
- Draw or write poetry about some of the patterns found in nature, for example: symmetry, branching, spirals, etc.

Try This

- Go on a web walk to look for different spider webs hctfeducation.ca/file/spiders-and-their-webs.pdf

Contents for the Exchange Box

- A book or portfolio with the different patterns and observations.
- Make a models or art of patterns found in nature — leaves, webs, etc.
- Create a checklist for class to go look for patterns.

Ethnobotany

To identify native plants and their uses by people.

Class Activities

- Go outdoors to find and identify native plants in the local area.
- Research facts and uses of these plants by Indigenous people.
- Complete a four senses exploration of the plant (sight, smell, touch, sound).

Student Activities

- Create plant cards giving them superhero names.
- Add all the information discovered in the exploration.

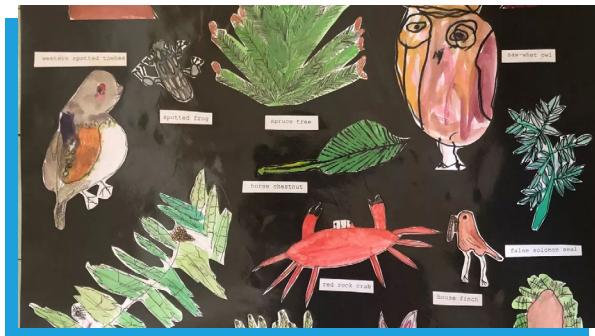
Try This

- Go on an Ethnobotany Scavenger Hunt with this activity: hctfeducation.ca/file/ethnobotany-scavenger-hunt.pdf or check out these People and Plant identification cards: hctfeducation.ca/resource/?resourcecode=RR000421&search=people+and+plants

Contents for the Exchange Box

- Students created plant superhero cards.
- Photos of indigenous plants and quick facts about those plants — uses and medicines.





Wildlife is Everywhere

Investigate the local animals that live around the school.

Class Activities

- Go outdoors to look for signs of wildlife (e.g. track, webs, scat, etc.).

Student Activities

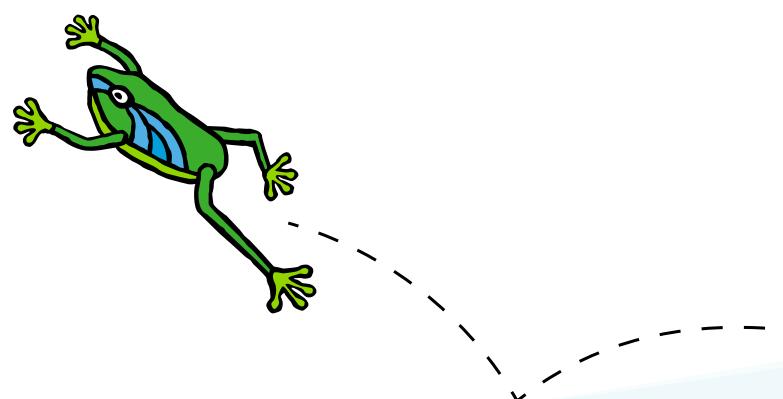
- Create cards of wildlife that live in the local area.

Try This

- Be a nature detective hctfeducation.ca/file/nature-detective.pdf or make some outdoor observation nature tools hctfeducation.ca/search-result/?search=how+to+make

Contents for the Exchange Box

- "Who am I" bags with secret nature items and 3 clues.
- Paper tube binoculars.



Two activities if winter comes early near you!



Adaptations in Winter

An inquiry into how animals, including humans and plants, survive in the winter.

Class Activities

- Go outdoors to look for signs of animals (e.g. tracks, feeding sites, etc.).
- Classify animals if they hibernate, migrate or adapt.
- Look for food sources for animals during winter.
- Observe changes in plants as they prepare for winter.

Students

- Draw signs of wildlife they see.
- Draw signs of how plants adapt for winter.

Try this!

- Make a shoe box model showing how animals live under the snow hctfeducation.ca/file/beneath-the-snow.pdf or look for animals signs in the winter hctfeducation.ca/file/winter-animal-signs.pdf

Contents for the Exchange Box

- Shared inquiries about signs of animals found.
- Listed what food is available to the animals in the winter.
- Photos or drawings of how plants adapt for winter.

Snow

Investigating snow and its characteristics.

Class Activities

- Go outdoors to examine snow. Brainstorm words to describe snow (e.g. light, heavy, wet, crisp, melting, sparse, scattered, deep, shallow, etc.)
- Create an experiment to discover things can stay on top of the snow.

Students

- Make models of snowflakes (e.g. snowflakes at art, paper cut outs etc.)
- Read favourite books and poems about snow.

Try this!

- Explore the different types of snowflakes hctfeducation.ca/file/snowflake-types.pdf or read about life under the snow life hctfeducation.ca/file/hole-in-the-snow.pdf

Contents for the Exchange Box:

- A book with favourite snowman poems.
- Snowflake art showing the different types of snowflakes.
- List of words to describe snow.
- Photos of the students in the snow.

