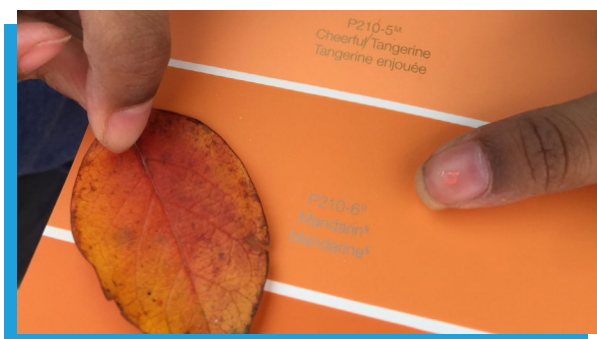




# Environmental Exchange Box Ideas for Fall

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](http://hctfeducation.ca/file/natures-palette.pdf) or Signs of Autumn [hctfeducation.ca/file/signs-of-autumn.pdf](http://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

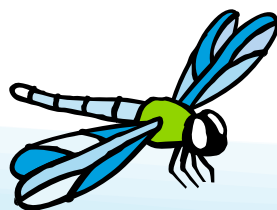
- Draw or write about their discoveries.

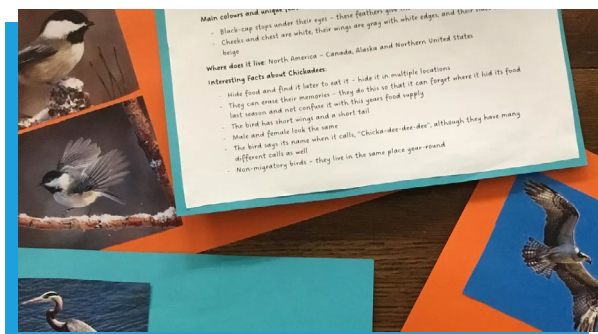
### Try This

- Go on a Sense Walk or another mini sensory activities: [hctfeducation.ca/file/sense-walk.pdf](http://hctfeducation.ca/file/sense-walk.pdf) or [hctfeducation.ca/file/mini-sensory.pdf](http://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](https://hctfeducation.ca/file/bird-bingo.pdf) or Bird Beak Buffet [hctfeducation.ca/file/bird-beak-buffet.pdf](https://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?

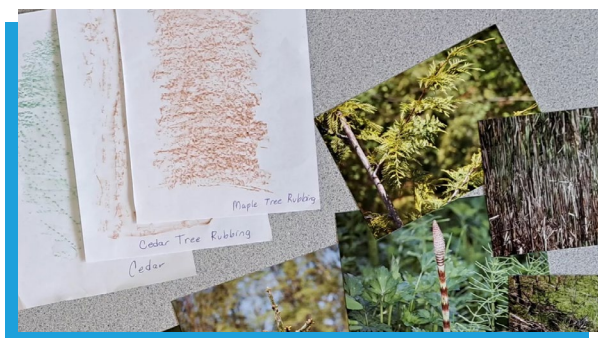
### Try This

- Go on a fungi scavenger hunt: [hctfeducation.ca/file/fungi-scavenger-hunt.pdf](https://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

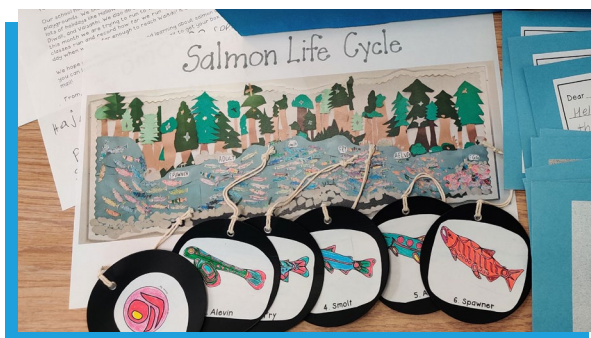
- Observe the differences and similarities of the coniferous and deciduous tree leaves and create leaf prints.
- Find out about the varieties of native tree that grow in your area.
- Make ink leaf print art.
- Preserve a few leaves with beeswax.

### Try This

- Compare trees with this activity: [hctfeducation.ca/file/comparing-trees.pdf](http://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

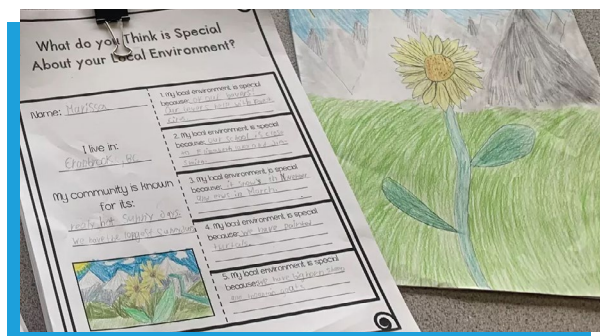
- Play a salmon game with one of these activities: [hctfeducation.ca/file/dinner-for-two.pdf](http://hctfeducation.ca/file/dinner-for-two.pdf) or [hctfeducation.ca/file/kokanee-spawning-adventure.pdf](http://hctfeducation.ca/file/kokanee-spawning-adventure.pdf)

### 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](http://hctfeducation.ca/file/ecoprovinces-of-bc.pdf) or this Backyard Biodiversity Bingo [hctfeducation.ca/file/backyard-bingo.pdf](http://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](http://hctfeducation.ca/file/biodiversity-clues-cards.pdf) or record observations with Creating Nature Journal [hctfeducation.ca/file/creating-a-nature-journal.pdf](http://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

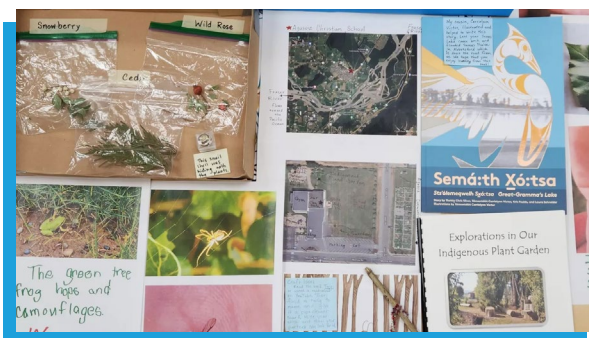
- Create a class book with illustrations and descriptions of the various patterns they found or created outdoors.
- Draw or write poetry about some of the patterns found in nature, for example: symmetry, branching, spirals, etc.

### Try This

- Go on a web walk to look for different spider webs [hctfeducation.ca/file/spiders-and-their-webs.pdf](http://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 model 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.

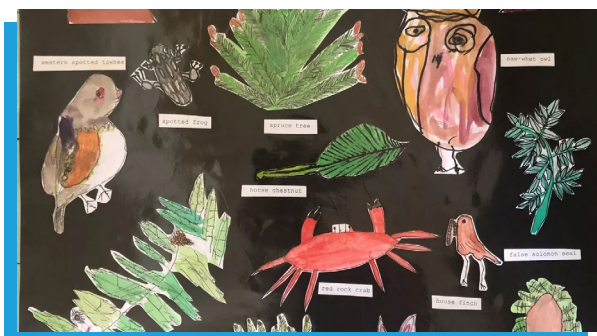
### Try This

- Go on an Ethnobotany Scavenger Hunt with this activity: [hctfeducation.ca/file/ethnobotany-scavenger-hunt.pdf](http://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](http://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

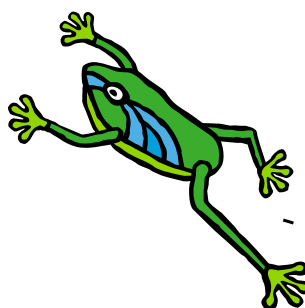
- Create cards of wildlife that live in the local area.

### Try This

- Be a nature detective [hctfeducation.ca/file/nature-detective.pdf](https://hctfeducation.ca/file/nature-detective.pdf) or make some outdoor observation nature tools [hctfeducation.ca/search-result/?search=how+to+make](https://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 in to 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](http://hctfeducation.ca/file/beneath-the-snow.pdf) or look for animals signs in the winter [hctfeducation.ca/file/winter-animal-signs.pdf](http://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](http://hctfeducation.ca/file/snowflake-types.pdf) or read about life under the snow life [hctfeducation.ca/file/hole-in-the-snow.pdf](http://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.

