



# Environmental Exchange Box

Are you looking for a method for your students to express and reflect on personal or shared experiences of place?

K-9 classes in B.C. are invited to participate in the Environmental Exchange Box Program to explore and learn about the biodiversity of their local places and share their learnings with each other.

## Overview

The Environmental Exchange Box program pairs up classes from around BC to share and exchange about biodiversity in their local places. Students prepare items (photos, art, collections, stories, etc.) to be included in an exchange box of their learning of the local environment and then share with another class in another school from around the province.

## Objectives

- Students will gain an appreciation and connection with their local place through creating “exchange boxes” of their local region to share with another class from a different region.
- Students will gain a deeper understanding about their own place as well as learning about another region in B.C.
- Students will learn about BC Parks and other special places in their local area or ecoregion and share with students from other regions.

## What is an exchange box?

The exchange box is a physical box that participating classes will receive when they sign-up; what is put into the exchange box depends on the creativity of your class but here are some ideas:

- Pictures
- Illustrations
- Plant rubbings - bark, leaf, stem
- Poetry, stories
- Models of things found in nature
- Video or presentations
- Newspaper articles



## Steps to participate in the exchange!

### 1. Apply online.

- Apply in our online HCTF Survey: <https://hctf-grants.smapply.ca/>. If you are new to applying to our grants or programs, you will need to register in the system.
- Once we have a matching class we will notify you via email with information about your exchange box partner class.
- Once you are partnered with another class we will ship your exchange box with materials and information to get you started.

### 2. Start exploring your local places

- Identify and learn about your local area such as ecosystems, biome, biogeoclimatic zones, habitats, forest, parks, plants, animals, water bodies, community features etc.
- If possible, go outside to explore!

### 3. Create your exchange box!

- Plan with your class about what to include in their exchange box.
- Share your learnings and observations to help your exchange class learn about your place(s).

### 4. Exchange!

- Ship your exchange box to your partner class with prepaid mailing tickets provided.
- Study the exchange box your class has received to learn about their special place(s).
- Use other ways to communicate or do some interactive sharing between classes such as video conferencing or skype.

### 5. Reflect

- Express and reflect on BC's special places.
- After receiving the environmental exchange box and making comparisons, have the students list similarities and differences between the two regions.
- If time permits, complete another exchange to allow for class to class questions and answers.
- Complete the teacher to teacher feedback form.

### 6. Wrap-up!

- Submit your short summary of your exchange in our online Survey Apply system, upload any photos or videos to share.

