

Freshwater

Make a Point on the Water Map

Be part of the “bluing” of Canada – literally! Schools participating in the Blue School program and/or the Ocean Links project will be identified as blue “water drop” points on a map of Canada’s drainage basin, located at www.wildeducation.org. Make your students proud to see their school’s name counted as part of a youth effort to make Canada more ocean-friendly.

Sign up for One to Five Years

Ocean Links will last for five years. Participate this year to celebrate IYFW, or stay with the project for two or more years. Register as a Blue School and make Ocean Links your starting point to boost ocean health. Your students’ observations this year will draw attention to conditions at their school or in their community that could be improved to boost the health of freshwater locally for the sake of oceans globally. Staying with the project means future classes can track the progress of improvements recommended by previous classes.

Earn School Recognition

Schools participating in the Ocean Links project will receive a beautiful certificate for each year of involvement in the project.

Play the Ocean Links Simulation

Prepare students to participate in the Ocean Links project through a board-game simulation, included in this kit. Playing Ocean Links helps students make an important connection: water that flows through their community in creeks, streams, rivers, or lakes is the same water that ultimately drains into the ocean. This insight assists students to fine-tune their observational skills by seeing how positive or negative conditions that influence freshwater locally can eventually help or harm ocean health.

The Ocean Links game engages students in simulated field experiences at school and along shorelines in their community. Students will identify at least 20 indicators of water quality and discover the connection between local freshwater and the ocean. They will then form opinions about human impacts on freshwater and marine resources and draw conclusions about what people can do to improve conditions for aquatic life. The game simulates involvement in the real-life Ocean Links project.

From Simulation to Reality: Connect with Ocean Links in Five Easy Steps

Students have a stake in water health. Their voices deserve to be heard. Ocean Links is a learning activity that will fine-tune their observational skills in five easy steps.

1. Have your students play a simulated version of Ocean Links. This virtual field trip helps students identify conditions that affect local water health on school grounds, in school buildings, and along shorelines in their community. It’s a perfect way to prepare them for participation in the real project!

Lessons That Fit Your Curriculum

Want more resources? Let your fingers do the walking to www.wildeducation.org just right with your science curriculum. Here’s what you’ll find:

- Lesson 1: The Great Round Table Debate
- Lesson 2: Take Action: Protect Coasts and Watersheds
- Lesson 3: Restore a Ribbon of Life
- Lesson 4: Trace Your Aquatic Roots
- Lesson 5: Assess Your Pollution Potential

Curriculum Connections

The following “learning outcome clusters,” described in the *Learning Outcomes, K–12*, are addressed in lessons 1–5.

Science Learning Outcome Clusters	Lesson 1	Lesson 2	Lesson 3	Lesson 4	Lesson 5
Exploring the world with our senses	•	•	•	•	
Needs and characteristics of living things	•	•	•		
Plant and animal growth and changes			•		
Air and water in the environment	•	•	•	•	
Habitats and communities	•	•	•	•	
Diversity of life			•	•	
Interactions within ecosystems	•				
Water systems on Earth	•	•	•	•	
Sustainability of ecosystems	•	•			
Interactions among living things					



2. After playing the game, have the students view a map of Canada's drainage basins at the *WILD Education* Web site (see www.wildeducation.org). Ask them to identify the drainage basin in which their school is located. Have them trace the flow of water from their area to the ocean. Announce that CWF will recognize their participation in Ocean Links by posting their school's name on the map.
3. Apply what students have learned in the simulation by having them explore their school grounds and building for signs of positive and negative conditions that affect local water health. Divide the class into four teams. Provide each team with a photocopy of the "Ocean Links Project Report" as a guide (a master of the report forms is enclosed in this kit). Using the "Our Ocean Links Observations" sheet, ask each team to record its observations. If time permits, have the students make

and record observations about how the shoreline of a nearby creek, stream, lake, or river rates in regard to water health.

4. Back in class, ask each team to form opinions on how the conditions they observed may affect the health of (1) their local water and (2) the ocean into which their local water drains. Have each team share its views with the rest of the class. Make a list of positive and negative conditions that affect water health. Through a class discussion, have the teams reach a consensus on five steps people can take to improve the health of local freshwater and oceans – no matter where they live in Canada.
5. Ask student volunteers to complete the "Our Ocean Links Water Health Report" on behalf of their class. The report may be completed on-line at www.wildeducation.org or on the sheet provided in this kit. Later, have the students check out the drainage basin map on our Web site for a blue dot bearing their school's name.

Learning About Oceans



Unit 9

www.wildeducation.org for 10 exciting classroom activities that fit:

- Lesson 6: Pollution Prevention Projects
- Lesson 7: Where Does Your Garbage Go
- Lesson 8: Participate in a Biological Survey
- Lesson 9: Save Water for Wildlife
- Lesson 10: Organize a Shoreline Cleanup Crusade

Connections

described in the *Common Framework of Science* (Lessons 1 to 10).

Lesson 5	Lesson 6	Lesson 7	Lesson 8	Lesson 9	Lesson 10
•	•	•	•	•	•
		•	•		•
			•		
•	•	•	•	•	•
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•	•	•	•	•	•
			•	•	

Blue School Makes a Splash

With almost 200 habitat improvement projects on the go, Blue School has inspired over 25,000 students to get involved in ocean-friendly ventures in virtually all parts of Canada. The Blue School program got off to a great start as a five-year project in honour of the International Year of the Ocean in 1998. IYFW marks the renewal of Blue School as it enters another half decade. From the Arctic Ocean to the Pacific to the Atlantic – and all points in between – schools are invited to be part of the "bluing" of Canada by joining this innovative program.

Enrol in the Blue School Program

As a Blue School, your school declares that it:

- acknowledges that global ocean health depends on local freshwater health;
- seeks to teach students about practices that boost water quality in their community;
- understands that freshwater and saltwater systems are interconnected, and
- recognizes the importance of being ocean-friendly by creating a "Blueprint for Ocean Action."

freshwater

Benefits of Being a Blue School

- Recognition as a model community leader in ocean education.
- Access to free resources on water and oceans.
- Eligibility for funding of ocean-friendly habitat improvement projects.
- Advance information about new resources.
- Prizes and support materials for ocean-related school festivals and activities.
- And much more!

All Blue Schools receive a beautiful plaque with medallions awarded for each year they participate as leaders in



ocean education. Visit www.wildeduction.org for profiles on exciting projects carried out by Blue Schools.

Track Aquatic Species From Space

Canadian astronaut Bob Thirsk initiated the fascinating Space for Species program that enables youth to monitor aquatic migrants from outer space. Students can follow the leatherback sea turtle, polar bear, and common eider. They create migration maps, record habitat data, and keep field notes as they apply scientific inquiry to wildlife conservation. They can even get acquainted with Thirsk and several conservation biologists. A free teacher's guide is available. Visit www.spaceforspecies.ca.

Let Us Support Your IYFW Ocean Celebration
Celebrate oceans any time of the year! It's a great way to recognize the connection between freshwater and saltwater during IYFW. We'd like to be part of your event by giving you posters, prizes, and suggestions on how to celebrate!

Schools enrolled in the Blue School program will qualify for a special bundle of give-away prizes for their events. Visit our Web site at www.wildeduction.org to register your event and find a host of ideas for celebrations and festivals.

More Resources...

WILD Education is a growing family of environmental education programs that includes water education among a host of conservation and wildlife themes. Resources include:

- Project WILD, featuring over 100 activities with aquatic extensions.
 - Fish Ways, a freshwater fisheries education program.
 - Below Zero, an activity guide that promotes understanding about wildlife in frozen environments.
 - WILD School, a hands-on program that uses habitat improvement projects as learning tools.
 - *One Earth, One Ocean, One Life*, an educational CD-ROM that explores our connection with the sea (available for \$24.95).
- Visit the *WILD Education* Web site at www.wildeduction.org.

Contacts for Even More Resources

Biodiversity Convention Of fice
(Environment Canada)

- www.bco.ec.gc.ca

Canadian Association of Principals

- www.oceanslearning.ca

Canadian Museum of Nature

Canadian Centre for Biodiversity

- www.nature.ca
- www.nature.ca/rideau (Portrait of a River's Biodiversity)

Fisheries and Oceans Canada

- www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca
- www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/canwaters-eauxcan

Intoinfo Inc.

- www.intoinfo.com

Marine Environment Branch (Environment Canada)

- www.ec.gc.ca/marine
- www.npa-pan.ca

Parks Canada

- www.parkscanada.gc.ca

Scouts Canada

- www.scouts.ca



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Fax: (613) 599-4428
Web sites: www.cwf-fcf.org
www.wildeduction.org

Oceans Day 2003 Teachers' Guide

What's in This Kit?

- A giant Oceans Day poster to display in your school.
- Ocean Links – a National Blue School Project that gives students a voice in ocean conservation.
- A game board that promotes awareness of water health in schools.
- Curriculum-linked lessons on water, oceans, and wildlife located at the *WILD Education* Web site.
- Tracking of ocean migrants through the *Space for Species* Web site.
- Ideas for school celebrations of oceans and marine and freshwater wildlife.

Oceans Day, June 8, was declared in 1992 at the United Nations Earth Summit. The purpose of Oceans Day is to raise awareness about the life-sustaining role of oceans and to inspire people to take better care of them.

International Year of Freshwater

From space, the image of the continent where we live is like a huge island. Your community is one of thousands sprinkled across a huge mass of mountains, hilltops, flat lands, and wetlands. The freshwater that trickles from springs, creeks, and streams near you flows into complex networks of rivers and lakes. It may meander down the path of a watershed or thunder down waterfalls, churn into rapids, and then converge into larger water systems. Whatever its path, the freshwater from your community inevitably drains into, and merges with, one of three vast oceans – the Arctic, Atlantic, or Pacific.

Freshwater is our vital link with the global ocean, no matter where we live. It is this connection that we celebrate during this International Year of Freshwater.

Join the National Blue School™ Ocean Links Project

The United Nations declared 2003 the International Year of Freshwater (IYFW) to draw attention to critical water problems facing our world today. IYFW will also generate action by individuals, governments, businesses, institutions, and communities to protect oceans worldwide.

Your students can take part in this international appeal for awareness to enhance water health by joining the Blue School program and participating in the national Ocean Links project. Ocean Links is a Canada-wide project that seeks to engage youth participation to:

- promote an understanding that freshwater and salt-water systems are interconnected;
- create awareness that local actions to boost freshwater health also improve ocean health, and
- give students across Canada a voice in improving habitat health for freshwater and marine wildlife.

Reserve an Afternoon to Participate in Ocean Links

Have your students look for signs of water health at their school and in their community by using the "Our Ocean Links Observations" sheet as a guide (a master of the report is enclosed with this kit). Then, invite them to form opinions, based on their observations, about the health of local freshwater and the ocean into which it drains. Finally, ask students to suggest ways to improve ocean health and living conditions for aquatic wildlife by lending freshwater a helping hand. Have them send a completed "Our Ocean Links Water Health Report" to us by fax, mail, or e-mail so their voices will be heard. It's that simple!

Every year, for five years, the Canadian Wildlife Federation and its Oceans Day partners will give youth a voice about ocean conservation by announcing students' views on the health of our freshwater and oceans. We will share their suggestions on how local actions by all Canadians can improve our oceans for marine life and all living things.

Learning About Oceans



Unit 9

