



ECHO School Program

Hands on the Land

Grades 3 - 6

Summary

Students will explore the geological, ecological, and cultural forces that created the Lake Champlain Basin today. They will track the changes in flora and fauna starting after the ice age, when Paleo-Indians inhabited the region. Investigate how humans impacted the land and wildlife as well as how the landscape influenced human settlement. Though humans are one among millions natural influences, our hands on the land have been significant. The choices we make today regarding land use will impact the future of the Basin.

Essential Question:

How have humans impacted the land in the Lake Champlain Basin over time?

Focusing Questions:

What are the natural factors that create change in a landscape?

How do changes in the landscape over time influence human activities?

What is the difference between a need and a want?

In what ways can humans practice more thoughtful resource management in a time of high demands?

Vermont Standards and Grade Expectations

7.13 The Living World

S3 – 4: 49 and S5 – 6: 49

Natural Resources

4.6 Understanding Place

H&SS3 – 4:8, 18, 20 and H&SS5 – 6: 8, 18, 20

Students connect the past with the present

Students show an understanding of the interaction/interdependence between humans, the environment and the economy

Students show an understanding of the interconnectedness between government and the economy

Key Program Activities

- ◆ Living vs. non-Living natural resources sorting activity and landscape change
- ◆ Historical stories of human land use and its impact on wildlife and natural resources
- ◆ Debate needs vs wants
- ◆ Natural resources management and ways humans are changing
- ◆ Stewardship actions around the world



Websites:

www.uvm.edu/place

The Place Program is a collaboration of the University of Vermont and Shelburne Farms to provide communities with an innovative, new model for place-based education. It utilizes an integrated series of workshops, fieldwork, lectures, and printed resources to help communities examine and interpret the landscape of a town and its transformation over time. Teachers interested in incorporating the local landscape into their classroom can visit the website for more information.

www.uvm.edu/perkins/landscape

Website for the Landscape Change Project at the University of Vermont, Geology Department. Digital archive of photographs documenting two centuries of landscape change while introducing you to geology, human-induced landscape change, and various forms of computer technology.

www.vtearthinstitute.org

Vermont Earth Institute (VEI) provides resources for teachers to educate themselves and their students about population dynamics, carrying capacity, costs of growth, consumerism, commercialism, materialism, and sustainable communities. VEI's Fact Sheets cover issues such as sprawl, energy use, wildlife habitats, wetlands, transportation and the costs of growth in Vermont. If you are interested in learning what your impact on the environment may be, take the "Carbon Quiz." By calculating how much you travel and consume you can get an idea of your carbon emissions.

www.njfuture.org/articles/scorecards.html

How do you know if your community is "growing smart"? And how do you know where you need to make improvements? These scorecards are user-friendly tools intended to help citizens and local officials identify smart growth strengths and weaknesses in proposed developments and local planning and growth.

Bibliography:

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Terrie, Philip G., *Wildlife and Wilderness, A History of Adirondack Mammals*, Purple Mountain Press, 1993.

Thompson, Elizabeth H., and Sorenson, Eric R., *Wetland, Woodland, Wildland, A Guide to the Natural Communities of Vermont*, University Press of New England, 2000.

Wessels, Tom, *Reading the Forested Landscape*, The Countryman Press, 1997.

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