

# Spring Land Based Learning Activities

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Mother Earth provides everything for her children to live in harmony. A balance is achieved for all life forms to live in positive mutual interaction. Respect and the utmost care was provided to her so that she may continue to sustain the sacred relationships that have been on-going since the beginning. Any action taken that deviated from this relationship was seen as disrespecting mother earth and in extreme cases, a violation of sacred laws.

It was important for young people to be instilled with the value of humility to carry on the sacred relationships. Another important value integral to maintaining a sacred balance is respect. Children were taught to respect mother-earth as they respected their own mothers. In prayer and ceremony, mother-earth is acknowledged for providing food, medicines and other things needed to sustain life. The mother-child relationship is extended to all other life-forms.



## Duck Egg Hunting

Elders within our Territory talk about duck egg hunting as a spring activity. Do you know anyone in your community that practices this traditional skill. These eggs are all different and can be found in local spots around your community, and can be all various, shapes and sizes. What makes a good location for a duck to lay eggs? What characteristics define different species of ducks and their eggs?

Kindergarten: LTK.1, NK.1, SSK.1, ARK.2, CRK.1, USCK.1, RWK.2  
 Grade 1: OM1.1, N1.1, P1.1, CC1.3, RW1.2, DRI.1, USC2.4  
 Grade 2: MP2.1, AN2.3, N2.1, N2.2, CC2.3, CR2.3, DR2.2, IN2.2,  
 Grade 3: SM3.2, N3.3, P3.1, CC3.2, AR3.2, DR3.3, USC3.5  
 Grade 4: HC4.1, HC4.2, N4.6, P4.2, CR4.1, USC4.5, DR4.2  
 Grade 5: WE5.3, N5.2, SS5.2, CC5.1, USC5.4  
 Grade 6: DL6.1, N6.5, P6.1, AR6.1, DM6.9, IN6.4  
 Grade 7: E7.1, MS7.3, SS7.2, I, CC7.6, USC7.5,  
 Grade 8: CS8.1, CS8.4, CR8.1, USC8.1, PAB.2  
 Grade 9: EU9.2, EU9.3, CR9.1, AP9.12, PA9.2, P9.1, P9.4  
 Grade 10-12: HS20-NU1, BI30-LE1, FPI0.1, FM20.2, CRA30.1, NATSTU30.1



## Birch Bark Harvesting

Birch trees are often used for clean fire burning for heat and cooking. Tapping birch for sap, collecting wood and birch bark biting are a variety of activities that can be done in the spring. Where in your community are there birch trees? "Sally Milne who is a birch bark biter. She wanders through the forest gathering just the right kind of bark to use in her works. She explains the origin of birch biting and its importance to the people. From gathering from the tree and the peeling of layers, every step is intricate and teaches the importance of patience."

Kindergarten: LTK.1, PK.1, NK.5, CRK.3, CCK.1, INK.2  
 Grade 1: OM1.1, N1.1, SS1.2, CR1.3, CC1.3, DR1.3,  
 Grade 2: AW2.1, N2.1, P2.1, CR2.3, AR2.1, DR2.2, IN2.2, USC2.1  
 Grade 3: PL3.2, SM3.1, N3.3, P3.1, CC3.1, DR3.3, RW3.2, USC3.2  
 Grade 4: HC4.1, HC4.2, N4.6, P4.2, CR4.2, USC4.6, DR4.2  
 Grade 5: WE5.3, FM5.3, N5.2, SS5.2, AR5.1, USC 5.7  
 Grade 6: DL6.1, N6.9, P6.1, CC6.6, AP6.10, IN6.4  
 Grade 7: HT7.1, WS8.3, SS7.2, N7.2, CR7.2, USC7.1, RW7.3  
 Grade 8: WS8.1, FD8.1, SS8.4, CR8.2, USC8.2, DR8.3  
 Grade 9: RE9.1, AE9.1, SP9.1, SP9.2, CR9.2, DM9.11, PA9.1,  
 Grade 10-12: SCI10-CD2 ES20-AH1, CH30-EQ3 FPI0.3, FM30.1, CCB30.1, NATSTU30.4



## Spring Berry Picking

Spring berries are an important part of healthy relationships with the land. Families have their favourite spots and respect that other families have their own spots too. Berries fulfill many purposes in the community such as, feast, ceremony, nutrition and generosity. Traditional wisdom says it's healthy for the plant when the berries are foraged by people and animals. What berries do your family pick each year?

Kindergarten: LTK.1, NK.2, SSK.1, CRK.3, CCK.3, RWK.1, RWK.2  
 Grade 1: OM1.1, DS1.1, SS1.1, P1.2, CC1.3, IN1.1, DR1.3  
 Grade 2: MP2.1, SS2.2, SS2.3, AR2.1, CC2.3, DR2.2, IN2.2, USC2.2  
 Grade 3: PL3.1, PL3.2, N3.1, P3.1, CC3.4, RW3.2, DR3.3, USC3.1  
 Grade 4: HC4.1, HC4.2, P4.2, CR4.2, USC4.6, DR4.2  
 Grade 5: WE5.3, N5.2, SS5.3, CC5.2, USC 5.7, IN5.2  
 Grade 6: DL6.1, N6.5, N6.9, CR6.1, USC6.4, IN6.2, IN6.4  
 Grade 7: IE7.1, HT7.1, SP7.1, CC7.1, DM7.7  
 Grade 8: CS8.1, WS8.3, CR8.5, USC8.6, DR8.1  
 Grade 9: RE9.3, AE9.2, CR9.4, CM9.10, IN9.4, P9.2, P9.3, SP9.2  
 Grade 10-12: PS20-HT1, HS20-HC1, CH30-EQ3, FPI0.5, FPI0.6, CR20.1, NATSTU20.2



## Signs of Spring

The smells around us in the spring tell us that the earth is renewing itself. The weather will be cold and then warm. The early plants will tell us spring is here. People start working in their gardens, rototill and preparing the earth. When the lightning leaves in the fall, everything goes dormant. When the lightning comes back, everything starts over again.

Kindergarten: NSK.1, PK.1, SSK.3, ARK.2, CRK.4, RWK.2,  
 Grade 1: DS1.1, DS1.2, P1.1, P1.3, CR1.3, IN1.1, DR1.3  
 Grade 2: AW2.1, P2.1, P2.2, CR2.3, CC2.3, RW2.2, IN2.2, USC2.4  
 Grade 3: PL3.1, ES3.1, N3.1, SS3.1, CC3.1, IN3.1, DR3.3, USC3.2  
 Grade 4: HC4.1, HC4.2, N4.6, N4.7, CC4.4, USC4.5, DR4.2  
 Grade 5: WE5.1, WE5.2, SS5.1, SS5.2, CC5.1, USC 5.4  
 Grade 6: SS6.2, N6.6, P6.1, CR6.5, AP6.10, DR6.1  
 Grade 7: IE7.1, IE7.4, N7.4, SP7.1, CR7.5, DM7.8  
 Grade 8: CS8.3, SP8.1, CC8.1, DM8.8, DR8.3  
 Grade 9: AE9.3, CE9.1, CC9.1, USC9.2, IN9.3, SP9.2, SP9.3  
 Grade 10-12: SCI10-CD1, HS20-HC1, ES30-AH2, FPI0.4, P20.5, CR10.1, NATSTU10.2,



## Beaver/Muskrat Harvesting

Beaver and muskrat harvesting is a spring activity in this territory. Indigenous ways of knowing always connect to school curriculum. For example, the students of Cumberland House conducted "The Muskrat/Wuchusk Project" where they connected indigenous science to secondary science courses. Following protocols and instructions for beaver and muskrat harvesting takes listening and practice within the local context.

Kindergarten: LTK.1, NK.2, NK.3, CCK.3, CRK.3, USCK.1, INK.2  
 Grade 1: OM1.1, N1.3, N1.7, CR1.3, IN1.1, DR1.3, USC1.3  
 Grade 2: AN2.1, AN2.3, N2.1, SS2.3, AR2.1, CC2.3, DR2.2, IN2.2,  
 Grade 3: SM3.2, ES3.2, N3.1, SS3.1, DR3.3, IN3.1, USC3.2  
 Grade 4: HC4.1, N4.6, P4.2, CR4.1, USC4.5, DR4.2, DR4.3  
 Grade 5: HB5.2, WE5.1, N5.7, SS5.1, CR5.1, USC 5.4, IN5.1, RW5.2  
 Grade 6: DL6.4, DL6.1, N6.8, P6.1, CC6.5, DM6.8  
 Grade 7: IE7.1, HT7.1, SS7.1, SP7.1, CR7.1, AP7.10  
 Grade 8: CS8.3, WS8.1, SP8.1, CR8.1, DM8.9, DR8.1  
 Grade 9: RE9.1, RE9.3, CC9.2, USC9.1, IN9.2, P9.3, SP9.4  
 Grade 10-12: SCI10-CR1, ES20-TE1, BI30-OL1, FM20.1, WA30.2, CCA10.3, NATSTU10.4



## Travel to Spring Trapping/Hunting Sites

Following protocols and instructions for snaring, hunting and trapping takes listening and practice. Explore oral instructions and protocols that present different viewpoints and perspectives including those that reflect the diversity of Canada and its citizens' diverse personal identities, world views, and backgrounds.

Kindergarten: LTK.1, SSK.2, PK.3, CCK.4, ARK.4, USCK.2, INK.2  
 Grade 1: DS1.1, DS1.2, N1.8, SS1.1, CC1.3, DR1.1, DR1.3, USC1.4  
 Grade 2: AW2.1, AW2.2, S2.4, CR2.3, AR2.1, RW2.2, IN2.2, USC2.5  
 Grade 3: N3.3, SS3.4, DR3.3, IN3.1, USC3.5  
 Grade 4: HC4.1, P4.2, SS4.1, CC4.4, USC4.6, DR4.2, DR4.3  
 Grade 5: WE5.3, FM5.3, SS5.1, SS5.3, AR5.1, USC5.7, IN5.1  
 Grade 6: DL6.3, N6.9, N6.1, CC6.6, DM6.9, IN6.2, IN6.4  
 Grade 7: MS7.3, IE7.4, SS7.1, N7.2, CR7.2, DM7.9  
 Grade 8: CS8.1, FD8.3, SP8.1, SP8.2, CR8.5, AP8.10, DR8.2  
 Grade 9: RE9.1, CE9.4, CC9.3, DM9.10, IN9.1, SS9.1, SP9.2, SP9.3  
 Grade 10-12: SCI10-CD1, HS20-HC1, ES30-AH2, FPI0.4, P20.5, CBR10.2, NATSTU10.4

Outcomes are colour coded by subject: ELA, Health, Math, Native Studies, Science, Social Studies

## Additional Activity Suggestions:

- Spring goose hunt excursions/activities
- Sling shot and spear making
- Ice harvesting, ice observations
- Medicine pickings
- River/lake activities
- Fishing, drying fish
- Scraping moose hides left to dry over from winter
- Egg harvesting



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