

Creating Your Own Conservation Group



Lesson Five

Age range: 12-16

Time: Three 75-minute periods

Subjects: Science, Geography, Social Studies, World Issues, Civics, Computers

Resources: Handout and chart: *Creating your Own Conservation Group* (class set, double-sided), access to Internet, pamphlets etc. for Hook, blank paper and pencil crayons.

Learning Outcomes

Students will understand forest biodiversity, habitat and conservation by researching two conservation groups relating to forests, migratory birds and biodiversity. They will then create their own conservation group, and design their organization's website (either on paper or on the computer).

Hook: What is a Non-governmental Organization (NGO)?

Pass around pamphlets, calendars, ads, letters, posters, etc. from as many different types of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) as possible (e.g., the Humane Society, Doctors Without Borders, Ducks Unlimited, Rotary Club, Kinettes, Canadian Cancer Society). Discuss why these groups exist and how they are separate from government agencies and industry groups. Explain that, although these groups may have different goals and methods, they share much in common in that they are composed of people who are working together. (Also ensure that students understand that government agencies, industry and individuals can work separately and together to reach specific goals.) Ask students if any of them belong to, or have family members who belong to, groups such as these, and how many students' families give money or volunteer for these groups.

Then, using the maps (pages 4 and 5) introduce the boreal forest and its importance as a bird breeding ground (see page 6). You may also use the Hinterland Who's Who handout on the boreal forest as a reference: <http://www.hww.ca/hww2.asp?id=354>. See the Teaching Resources section of teaching kit Volume 7 for other options.

Tell students that they are going to investigate some NGOs that focus on the conservation of the boreal forest and they will then create their own organization.

Procedure

- 1 Select an NGO as an example and fill out the chart as a class on the chalkboard. Ensure that students understand what each heading means.
- 2 Using the handouts provided and the Internet, students will research various aspects of two conservation groups and then create their own conservation group.
- 3 Students will then organize their conservation group's information by creating its website homepage and additional pages on paper (or on the computer, if ability and time allow).
- 4 Share conservation group descriptions with the class.

Extensions

Students could come up with a school conservation group that addresses a local habitat or resource issue.

Creating Your Own Conservation Group

Name: _____

Date: _____

NGO name and location of head office	Basic purposes and goals	Main and secondary activities (What does this group do to accomplish their goals?)	Fundraising activities	Government lobbying priorities (For example, what laws would this group like to see passed?)	Scope: local, provincial/territorial, national?	Government, NGO or industry partnerships
Researched NGO #1: _____ _____ _____ Location: _____ _____						
Researched NGO #2: _____ _____ _____ Location: _____ _____						
Your own NGO _____ _____ _____ Location: _____ _____						



Name: _____ Date: _____



Creating your own Conservation Group

1. Using the Internet, research and fill in your chart for two of the following environmental conservation groups (also called non-governmental organizations or NGOs) that have some focus on Canada's boreal forest. Keep in mind that some of the information in the categories on your chart might not be presented clearly on the group's websites; you may have to look for similar key words and interpret what is presented in order to fill out your chart. Ask your teacher for assistance if you need it.

Great Lakes United www.glu.org

Canadian Water Network www.cwn-rce.ca

Ducks Unlimited www.ducks.ca

NatureWatch www.naturewatch.ca (Also on this website: Icewatch, Wormwatch, Plantwatch and Frogwatch)

Canadian Forestry Association www.canadianforestry.com

Nature Conservancy www.natureconservancy.ca

Sierra Club www.sierraclub.ca

World Wildlife Fund www.wwfcanada.org

Greenpeace Canada www.greenpeace.ca

North American Wetland Conservation Council www.terreshumidescanada.org

First Nations Environmental Network www.fnen.org

Canadian Wildlife Federation www.cwf-fcf.org

Canadian Boreal Initiative www.borealcanada.ca

Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society www.cpaws.ca

Global Forest Watch www.globalforestwatch.org

Nature Canada www.naturecanada.ca

Birds Studies Canada www.bsc-eoc.org

2. To fill in the bottom row of your chart (your own group), first go to www.borealcanada.ca. At the right, select Research and then select Reports. Then select The Boreal Forest Region: North America's Bird Nursery. Read pages 3 and 4. Also examine the boreal forest resource material that your teacher has provided to you. Considering this information, fill in the bottom row of your chart, creating a conservation group that focuses on conserving boreal forest habitats, especially for migratory birds.

3. Using several blank sheets of paper and pencil crayons, design the home page and other 'side' pages for your group.

