

4 Natural Environment

Lesson Overview 3-4, 30 minute periods

1. **Read Aloud (Green Space Map)**
2. **Webquest Research Activity and Presentation**
3. **Postcard Activity. Show what you know (writing and visual arts activity)**
4. **Building the Region (Choice Board)**

Targeted Curriculum Expectations

- Social Studies: Urban and Rural Communities**
- compare land use and access to natural resources in urban and rural communities
 - Describe way in which they and their families use the natural environment
 - Recognize a range of features that may be represented by different colours on maps
 - Construct and read maps to clarify and display information about urban and rural communities

Language:

Read a variety of literary texts

Demonstrate understanding of a variety of texts by

Identifying important ideas and some supporting details

Sort ideas and information for their writing in a variety of ways e.g., webs, graphs

Write short texts using a variety of forms

Background Information

The Greenbelt, the Niagara Escarpment and the Oak Ridges Moraine are large environmentally sensitive protected areas which the Region of Peel has a part in protecting. These green areas protect the overall integrity of Peel's ecosystems which are part of the larger living and non-living systems of the Region. The natural environments of Peel provides the life support for our urban and rural communities. Damage to our natural environments have costly consequences for our communities. A well-functioning natural environment provides clean, air, water, and land which has social, health and economic benefits for those living and working in Peel, now and in the future.

Teaching/Learning Sequence

Materials:
BLM 4.1

MINDS ON...

Whole group activity → Green Spaces in Rural and Urban Areas

1. Provide students with the Region of Peel Natural Environment map (BLM 4.1). Read as a class.

2. Ask students: Have you ever visited a park or natural area. What activities did you do in the park? Why do you think these areas are important. Pair and Share Ideas.

Materials:
Use of
computer lab
TR 5.2

ACTION!:

1. In small groups, have students research the following natural environments in the Region of Peel (BLM 4.2):
 - a) The Greenbelt
www.tvokids.com/shows.greenbeltadventure
 - b) The Oak Ridges Moraine
www.trca.on.ca/enjoy/locations.oak-ridges-moraine.dot
 - c) The Niagara Escarpment
www.escarpment.org/about/overview/index.php
 - d) Albion Hills Conservation area:
www.trca.on.ca/enjoy/locations/albion-hills.dot
 - e) Urban Park in your neighbourhood
2. Groups are to prepare an oral presentation on their research.

Materials:
Photocopies of
BLM 4.3

CONSOLIDATION AND CONNECTION:

1. Students individually follow the steps in BLM 4.3 to create a postcard of the natural environment in the Region of Peel.
2. On the back of the postcard Students are to write a message to a family member or friend telling them why this green space is important to protect. On the front of the post card they are to draw a picture of the green space.

Field Trip Ideas:

1. Visit a local park or a green area in the Region.
2. Plant a tree in your park or school yard.



Building the Region

Choose one of the activities to help Green the Region to ensure clean air, clean water and protection of land for habitat and food:

Choice Board:

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| <p>Green your 3-D structure by creating a green roof top. Plant trees around your structure on the regional bulletin board</p> <p>For more information out a sustainable home go to: www.peelregion.ca/conservation/conserve/w-house.html</p> | <p>Design a new type of transportation to get to school without using fossil fuel. Drive it around the Regional bulletin board and park it where you live.</p> | <p>Create a poster promoting walking, biking, skateboarding, rollerblading, or scooting to school or around your neighbourhood. Post it in the hallway.</p> <p>www.walkandrollpeel.ca</p> |
| <p>Create a rain barrel using a cup to collect rainwater to water your garden</p> <p>www.peelregion.ca/conservation/conserve/w-house.html</p> | <p>Create a poster on how to conserve water in your home.</p> <p>www.peelregion.ca/conservation/conserve/w-house.html</p> | <p>Paint rivers and lake in the Region. Cut out fish and release them into the river on the bulletin board. (Refer to page 7 for major rivers in the Region of Peel)</p> |
| <p>Create a wind mill to power your house. Post it on the bulletin board.</p> | <p>Design solar panels to place on your built structure.</p> | <p>Create “Please turn off the light” signs to place around the school or your home.</p> |
| <p>Create a meal menu for your family using only local food that grows in the Region of Peel. For a list of local foods visit: http://www.peelregion.ca/scripts/gip/grown-ex.pl?action=vegs</p> | <p>Create a community garden using plasticine or recycled material. What would you grow in your garden?</p> | <p>Plant a crop to feed the city! Design your crops on the Regional Bulletin Board. Find out what you can grow by visiting: http://www.peelregion.ca/scripts/gip/grown-ex.pl?action=vegs</p> <p>Add your crop to the bulletin board.</p> |

Discussion: How does their activity positively affect the natural environment? What activities do people do in rural and urban areas that negatively effect the natural environment (land, water, air). What are the solutions to reduce the impacts?

Natural Environment



Niagara Escarpment
The Niagara Escarpment is a large protected natural area. The Niagara Escarpment is made of many natural things including rock cliffs, waterfalls, underwater caves, and 1,000-year old cedar trees. The Niagara Escarpment is a beautiful place to visit. Many people in the Region of Peel visit the Niagara Escarpment to go camping, hiking, skiing, fishing or swimming. We need to protect this green space so that there is habitat for plants and animals, and clean air and water for the future.



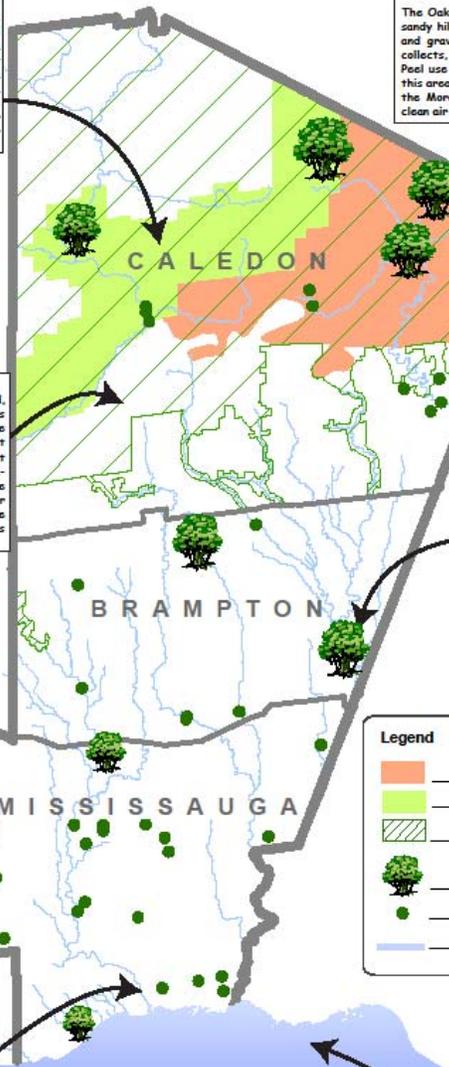
Greenbelt
The Greenbelt large area of protected farmland, and forest. The trees in the greenbelt act as "lungs" filtering the pollution out of the air we breathe. The streams and rivers in the Greenbelt give us a lot of fresh water to use. The Greenbelt protects farmland where foods like fruits, vegetables, meat, milk, and juice come from. Visit the Greenbelt's natural areas to enjoy lot of outdoor fun like hiking, skiing, bicycling, and swimming. We need to keep this area protected to ensure there is clean air and clean water for cities.



Parks
Parks are places where families can go to enjoy nature, play sports, and relax. Parks have trees that absorb pollution. The trees and soil in parks also provide habitat for many animals. Have you visited a park in your neighbourhood?



Credit River
The Credit River is the longest river in the Region of Peel. It starts at the top of the Niagara Escarpment and flows all the way to Lake Ontario. The river provides habitat for many fish species like Salmon and Lake Trout. If you travel down the river in a canoe or kayak you may see many different types of turtles, snakes, or birds. Human activities have caused the river to be polluted near the urban areas. People are now working hard to clean up the water so that we can have clean water to drink and a clean environment for plants and animals to live.



Legend

-  _____
-  _____
-  _____
-  _____
-  _____
-  _____

Oak Ridges Moraine
The Oak Ridges Moraine is a protected landform made up of sandy hills, forests, and river valleys. Did you know that sand and gravel under the moraine acts like a giant sponge? It collects, cleans and stores water. Many people in the Region of Peel use this stored water for drinking. We need to protect this area to ensure we have a source of clean water. On top of the Moraine, there are forests. These forests help provide clean air and a home for rare plants and animals.



Conservation Areas
Conservation areas in the Region of Peel are places for people like you to explore nature and get active! It is a place to go for some outdoor fun. In the summer you can enjoy camping, swimming, mountain biking, and picnicking. Winter activities include skiing, skating and tobogganing. You can visit Conservation areas in the Region of Peel to learn more about how to protect nature and help look after the environment.



Lake Ontario
The Region of Peel lies on Lake Ontario. Lake Ontario is one of the five Great Lakes. The Great Lakes are the largest group of fresh water lakes on earth! The Great Lake gives millions of people with water to drink. Long ago, many factories were built on the shoreline of Lake Ontario. People in the Region would ship goods like lumber, and flour to other communities around the Great Lakes. These industrial activities often caused lake pollution. Eventually, many of the industries have moved away from the shores of Lake Ontario. Today, you can enjoy biking, in-line skating, or walking along the beautiful waterfront trail!

What activities can people do when they visit?

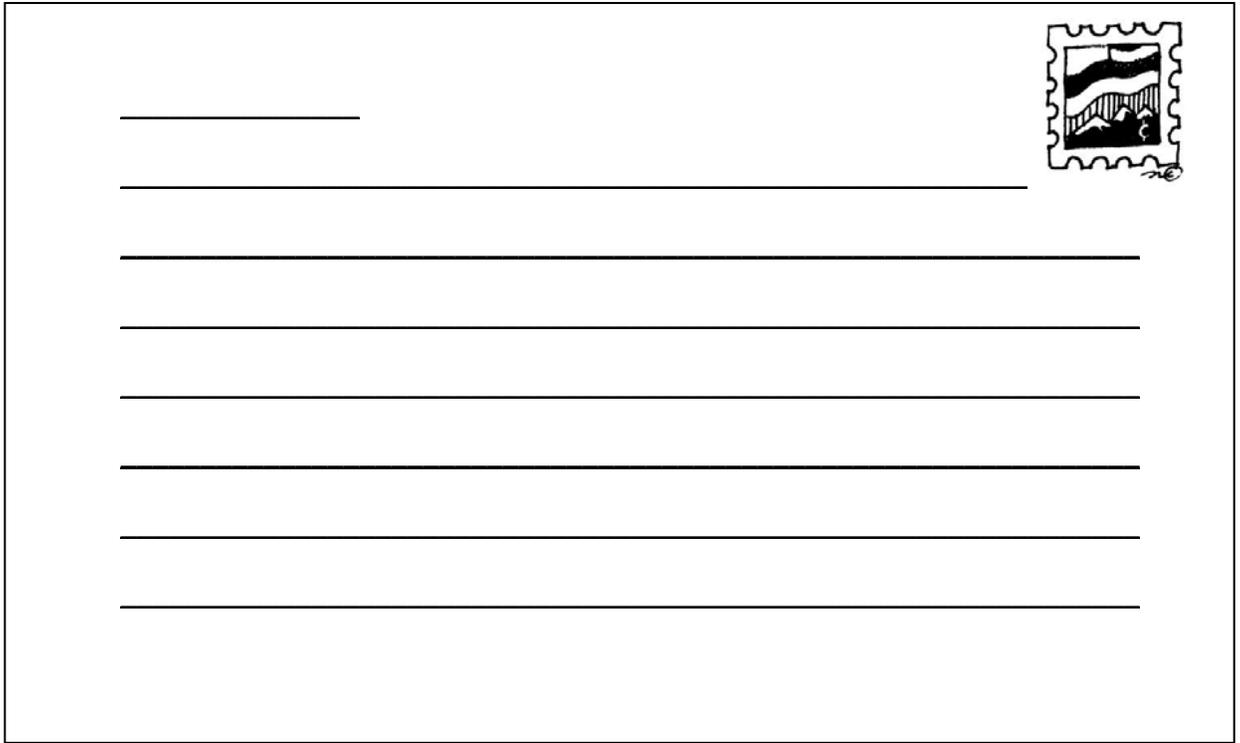
Why should we protect this natural area?

Name of Natural Area

What living things can you find in this natural area?

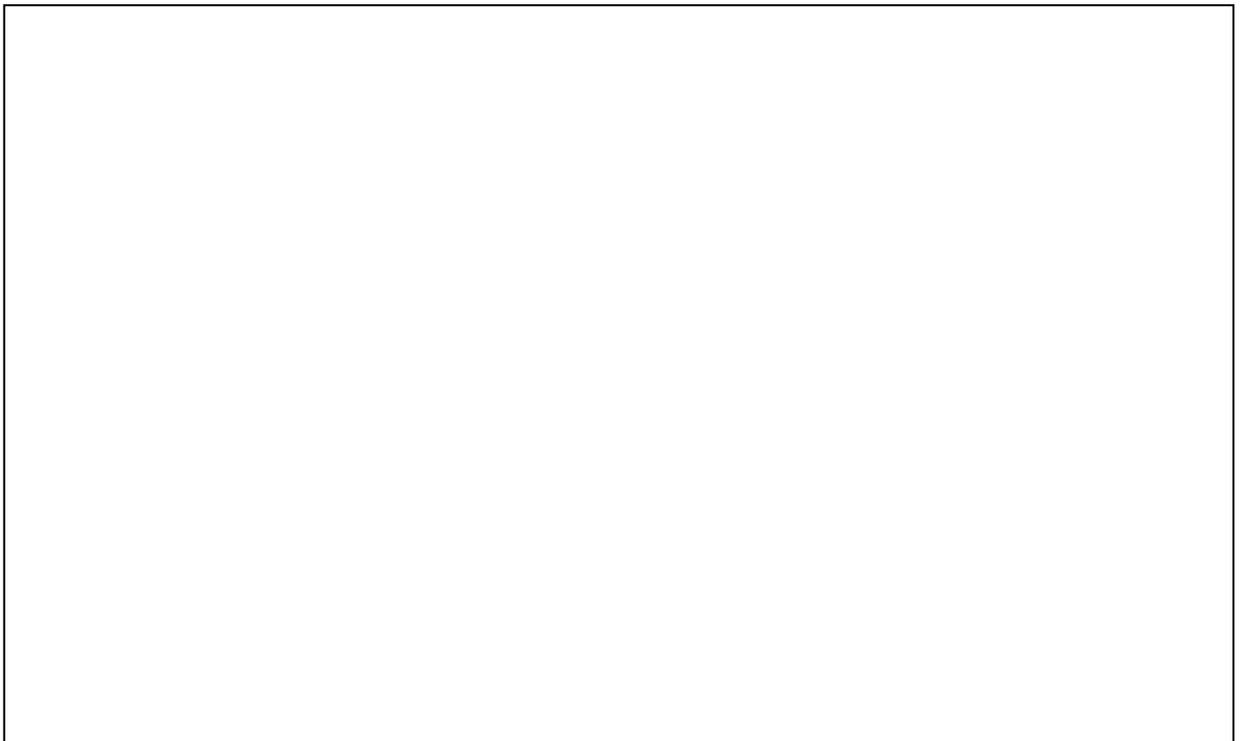
Write 3 interesting facts about this natural area.

Write a postcard to a friend or family member.



A rectangular box representing a postcard. In the top right corner, there is a postage stamp illustration showing a bridge over water with mountains in the background. Below the stamp, there are eight horizontal lines for writing an address and a message.

Draw a picture for the front of the postcard.



A large, empty rectangular box intended for drawing a picture for the front of the postcard.

Cut out and glue your postcard together. Mail it to your friend.