**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 provide 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**

**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.
**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.

**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:**

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<tr>
<th>Green your 3-D structure by creating a green roof top. Plant trees around your structure on the regional bulletin board. For more information out a sustainable home go to: <a href="http://www.peelregion.ca/conervation/conserve/whouse.html">www.peelregion.ca/conervation/conserve/whouse.html</a></th>
<th>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.</th>
<th>Create a poster promoting walking, biking, skateboarding, rollerblading, or scooting to school or around your neighbourhood. Post it in the hallway. <a href="http://www.walkandrollpeel.ca">www.walkandrollpeel.ca</a></th>
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<td>Create a rain barrel using a cup to collect rainwater to water your garden <a href="http://www.peelregion.ca/conervation/conserve/whouse.html">www.peelregion.ca/conervation/conserve/whouse.html</a></td>
<td>Create a poster on how to conserve water in your home. <a href="http://www.peelregion.ca/conervation/conserve/whouse.html">www.peelregion.ca/conervation/conserve/whouse.html</a></td>
<td>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)</td>
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<td>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: <a href="http://www.peelregion.ca/scripts/gip/grown-ex.pl?action=vegs">http://www.peelregion.ca/scripts/gip/grown-ex.pl?action=vegs</a></td>
<td>Design solar panels to place on your built structure.</td>
<td>Create “Please turn off the light” signs to place around the school or your home.</td>
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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?
What activities can people do when they visit?

Why should we protect this natural area?

What living things can you find in this natural area?

Write 3 interesting facts about this natural area.

Name of Natural Area

Name:_____________________

Webquest Activity
Write a postcard to a friend or family member.

________________________
________________________
________________________
________________________
________________________
________________________
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Draw a picture for the front of the postcard.

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