

# MAXWELTON OUTDOOR CLASSROOM CURRICULUM – LESSON TOPICS - SKILLS

*Classes provided by Whidbey Watershed Stewards*

## Three-year rotating program for grades 3, 4, 5 (Spring and Fall)

### Year A Fall: Learning about Salmon

Salmon Life Cycle  
Scents & smells and salmon migration  
Features of the streambed, Exploring the Creek  
*Measurement & Recording, Identification, Behavior, Observation*

### Year A Spring: Habitats and Creatures

Creatures in the forest habitat  
Creatures in the stream habitat  
Centipedes, millipedes and beetles in the forest floor habitat  
*Observation, Investigation, Ecosystem processes*

### Year B Fall: Salmon in the Ecosystem

The Incredible Journey  
Gravel & Silt and Spawning Salmon  
Salmon Species, Anatomy & Adaptations  
*Observation, Identification, Inquiry*

### Spring: Birds in the Ecosystem

Be a Bird Watcher  
Nesting instincts  
Fill the Bill  
*Observation, Model building, Binocular use*

### Year C Fall: The Food Web

Forest Floor Investigation – Living / Non-Living  
Food Chain in the Stream  
Decomposition and Soil-Building  
*Observation, Ecosystem processes, Inquiry, Microscope work*

### Year C Spring: The Forest Ecosystem

Insects in the Stream & Under the Microscope  
Native Plant Identification “Each One Teach One”  
Recipe for a Forest, Predators & Prey  
*Observation, Field Identification, Inquiry, Microscope work,  
Art project*

### Program for Grades K-2 (Spring only)

Explore the Creek  
Trees and Leaves  
Salmon Storyboard  
Insects of the forest



## Grade Level Expectations (GLEs) for Science Lessons

Analyze how the parts of system go together and how these parts depend on each other.

Understand that living things need constant energy and matter.

Understand that an organism's ability to survive is influenced by the organism's behavior and the ecosystem in which it lives.

Understand how to ask a question about objects, organisms, and events in the environment.

Understand how to plan and conduct simple investigations.

Understand how to report investigations and explanations of objects, events, systems, and processes.

Understand that people have invented tools for everyday life and for scientific investigations.

Understand how humans depend on the natural environment and can cause changes in the environment that affect humans' ability to survive.

## Outdoor Classroom Testimonials

"This is a great program for bringing science alive and making it relevant to our lives."

"The program was very well organized and I'm sure that the students come away with a special appreciation for the environment and the important ecosystems we have in our region."  
*Superintendent 10/06*

"I observed tons of student learning opportunities created by this program."

"Each of the break-out groups were well organized and very engaging for students."

"The environment, the program and the instructors are a gold mine for learning -- very nice work!"  
*Principal, Intermediate School 10/06*

"I enjoyed seeing the kids actually quiet down to the point where they were able to observe what was going on about them (forest)."

"Your group at the creek was also completely engaged and thoughtful about the lesson."

"The message becomes clearer to the kids each year... they get more out of it each time. The side learning is immense."

"Kids are learning about caring for the environment. We are raising them to be stewards in a way that we never imagined for ourselves, at least not through formal grade school channels."  
*Teacher, Intermediate School 10/06*

