****** **Parks NB: On Our Playground**

A Grades 3-5 Outdoor Learning Activity

In collaboration with Parks NB, the Department of Tourism,

Heritage, and Culture, and the Centre of Excellence for Health

**Overview**

Parks NB is coming to your own school playground! In this outdoor learning activity, learners not only will discover provincial facts and explore geographical locations, but they will also engage in physical activities to experience just a small taste of what our New Brunswick Provincial and National Parks offer every day!

**Curriculum Connections**

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| 3-5 Learning Areas |
| Physical Education:   * *Strand:* Skills & Concepts - *Big Idea:* Stability and Balance – *Skill Descriptor*: Apply principles of stability and balance, on a variety of surfaces while participating in activities. * *Strand:* Well-Being - *Big Idea:* Emotional and Social Skills – *Skill Descriptor*: Apply emotional and social skills to learning and performing physical activities. |
| Science:   * *Concepts:* Introduction to ecosystems, Interactions of living and non-living components, Sustainability-Conservation-Stewardship * *Strand:* Learning and Living Sustainably - *Big Idea:* Responsible and Sustainable Application - *Skill Descriptor:* Apply scientific knowledge and an understanding of sustainable practices responsibly with respect to the natural world.   Math:   * *Strand:* Shape and space   *Skill Descriptor:* Demonstrate an understanding of measuring length (cm, m) by: selecting and justifying referents for the units cm and m. |
| Social Studies:   * *Concepts:* Human relationships with the natural environment |

**Global Competencies**

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| **Collaboration** | **Communication** | **Critical Thinking & Problem-Solving** | **Innovation, Creativity & Entrepreneurship** | **Fostering and Teaching Self-Awareness and Self-Management** | **Sustainability and Global Citizenship** |

**What You’ll Need**

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| * Parks NB: Fundy National Parks PPT | * Pencils * Equipment (listed with each activity) |

**Instructions**

**Please note:** The majority of this activity is intended to be provided in an outdoor learning environment, however, feel free to adapt and change to meet the needs of your learners and outdoor spaces.

1. The Great Outdoors & My Mental Health: Gather and discuss this question: “What is positive mental health?” Allow learners to suggest and share signs of what positive mental health might look like, sound like, feel like (positive self-talk, good attitude, kindness, confidence, clearness of mind, sound decisions, creative, etc.). Then, ask: “How does learning outdoors contribute to positive mental health?” Allow learners to provide examples, testimonials, and ideas of the correlation between positive mental health and outdoor learning.

**\*To review the benefits of outdoor play and mental health please see the PDF resource attached.\***

2. Parks NB - Experience 10: Before beginning the activities, ask learners: “*How many have been to a Parks NB site before? If yes, which one and what did you do there? Which is the closest Parks NB site to us?”* Use slide 2 of the PowerPoint Presentation to refer to the NB map. Be sure to have learners dressed appropriately for the activities outlined below and have all materials prepared. There is no particular order of experiences - simply plan according to your preference. Here are how the experiences are organized:

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| **Parks NB Experience:** | **Fall & Spring Activity** | **Winter Activity** |
| 1. Fundy National Park:  *Bay of Fundy* | * Discussion * Rope Measuring Challenge * Red Light/Yellow Light/Green Light Game | * Discussion * Rope Measuring Challenge (with Snow Angels) * Red Light/Yellow Light/Green Light Game |

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| **Parks NB Experience #1: Fundy National Park** |
| **Park Highlight:** *Bay of Fundy*   |  |  | | --- | --- | | **Materials Needed:** | * Rope – 12.8 m in length (can also be meter sticks, hockey sticks, or skipping ropes tied together) * 2 pylons * Meter Stick or measuring tape * Soccer Field |   **Instructions:**    1. High Tides Discussion: Discuss: “*Fundy National Park is home to the world’s highest tides! The Bay of Fundy, twice a day, sees an incredible amount of water come in to shore and then back out to sea. How high do you think the water rises during high tide (in m)?”* Allow learners to discuss possibilities, as well as personal experiences with the Bay of Fundy waters.  Man with solid fillMan with solid fillMan with solid fill2. High Tide Measuring: Using rope (or other materials available), measure 12.8m in length with students on a soccer field. Place 1 pylon at the beginning and 1 pylon at 12.8m, so that it is clearly visible for students. Have students see if they can be as high as the tides by lying on the ground beside the rope – head to toes. Discuss how many students it takes to measure the tide heights. Make another (in a second line beside the first line), until all learners are measured to fill in the blank: Our class is \_\_\_\_\_ times Bay of Fundy HIGH TIDES tall!  Man with solid fillMan with solid fillMan with solid fill3. Game – Red, Yellow & Green Light: All learners will create a single-file line, and all start at the first pylon. They should be able to clearly see the 12.8m rope. A caller will be responsible for yelling out Red Light, Yellow Light, or Green Light.  Traffic light with solid fill Red Light = STOP  Yellow Light = Walk  Green Light = Run  For learners to get a sense of how tides move, it is necessary that the caller does not yell Red Light until the very last call. Learners will also walk or run as far as 12.8 and then walk or run back to the starting line and  continue this pattern until Red Light has been called. After the first game, ask learners: *Why was Red Light only called once*? (Tides never stop moving.) Repeat, as desired.  Winter Option: For *High Tide Measuring*, allow learners to create Snow Angels for class measurements! |