

HUMBER ARBORETUM ECO CENTRE



AMAZING ANIMALS



INTERESTING FACTS

- ✦ There are approximately 5400 species of mammals throughout the world of which 194 species live in Canada.
- ✦ There are 42 known species of amphibians in Canada. The Jefferson salamander is an example of a locally threatened amphibian.
- ✦ Of the 42 reptile species that live in Canada, there is only one species of lizard found in Ontario. It is known as the five lined skink. The spiny softshell turtle is an example of a locally threatened reptile.
- ✦ Over the years the Arboretum has been home to 3 species of Owls including the Great Horned, Long-eared, and Saw-whet.
- ✦ There are approximately 200 species of freshwater fish in Canada. Government and Conservation agencies are now trying to restore Atlantic salmon back into Lake Ontario where they were wiped out more than a century ago.



COOL ACTIVITIES

ANIMAL CHARADES

- ✦ Have your class make a list of animals that live in the Arboretum and have fun trying to act out the different animal movements.



BUSY BEAVERS/BIRDS

- ✦ Have the students list different materials a beaver/bird would use to build a dam/nest (mud, sticks, leaves, rocks, grass).
- ✦ Choose what animal you want (Beaver Dams need a small slope for water to run down. Bird nests can be done on flat ground.) Separate students into teams then go outside.
- ✦ Have the students make either the dam or nest with materials they find around the schoolyard.
- ✦ Now test the dams by pouring water above the dam to see how long it takes to go through. The dam that holds back water the longest wins. Test the bird nests by placing small rocks (eggs) into the nest until they fall through. The nest that holds the most rock wins.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. In what habitat of the Arboretum could you find an animal like a fox or coyote? (ANS: The meadow, because the fox or coyote can use the cover of dense long grass to stalk their prey.)
2. What are the 3 amphibians and 2 reptiles that live in the Arboretum. (ANS: Amphibians = green frog, leopard frog, American toad. Reptiles = midland painted turtle, and snapping turtle)
3. What is the name of the shelter that squirrels build during the summertime? (ANS: The shelter is known as a drey and looks like a huge pile of leaves up in the branches of a tree.)
4. What are the three different hawk species of the Arboretum? (ANS: red tailed hawk, broad winged hawk, and Coopers hawk)
5. Why would some species of fish have trouble breathing in parts of the Humber river? (ANS: The amount of sediment (dirt) in the water makes it very difficult to absorb oxygen through their gills.)

