

Balancing the Boreal: Indigenous Traditional Use & Boreal Forest Management Lesson Kit

LESSON PLAN OVERVIEW

"...Everything I say comes from the perspective of a Northern Cree. It comes from a particular place of lakes, rivers and boreal forest. This is the place I belong to. This is where my ancestors are buried, where their atoms are carried up by insects to become part of the forest, where the animals eat the plants in the forest, and where my ancestors' atoms are in the animals that I eat, in my turn. I am part of this place. I do not say that I own the land; rather, the land owns me." Harold Johnson, Two Families: Treaties and Government

OBJECTIVE:

This lesson is about developing an understanding of Indigenous peoples' traditional uses in the boreal forest, and the challenges and opportunities that exist in balancing cultural, spiritual, environmental and economic values when undertaking sustainable forest stewardship in Alberta.

OVERVIEW:

We will explore the complex and multi-faceted topic of Indigenous traditional uses as they are connected to Aboriginal rights, interests, and traditional cultures of Indigenous peoples and communities in Canada. We will also study introductory concepts in sustainable forest stewardship and discuss the work of forest managers. We will then examine how Indigenous traditional uses and sustainable forest stewardship intersect, and students will be challenged to consider different values as they work to "balance the boreal" through an applied group activity.

To facilitate and support the delivery of this lesson plan, the kit contains the following components:

1. Lesson Plan Overview
2. Teacher Resource Package
3. Video – "Balancing the Boreal: Indigenous Traditional Use & Boreal Forest Management"
4. "Balancing the Boreal" App: Classroom Activity

Discussion guides are included throughout the lesson plan to assist with classroom conversation.

CURRICULM CONNECTIONS:

A. Social Studies 10-1 – Perspectives on Globalization:

This lesson illustrates and reinforces core concepts identified within the curriculum where students:

- Explore multiple perspectives on the impacts of globalization on lands, cultures, economies, human rights and quality of life
- Discover the impact on Indigenous communities
- Evaluate economic, environmental and other contemporary impacts of globalization
- Assess their roles & responsibilities in a globalizing world

Specifically, this lesson can be used to complete the "Negotiating Global Solutions" activity suggested in the Alberta Curriculum for Social Studies 10. The link to this activity is below:

www.learnalberta.ca/content/ssoc10/html/negotiatingglobalsolutions_cc.html

B. Social Studies 30 - Perspectives on Ideology:

This lesson focuses on perspectives and understandings of ideologies where students are asked to:

- Investigate, analyze and evaluate government policies and actions; and,
- Develop individual and collective responses to contemporary local, national and global issues.

C. Other connections include:

Science 10, 20 and 30 – Incorporate Aboriginal perspectives to develop an appreciation of cultural diversity and acknowledge the contributions of Aboriginal people to understandings of the natural world.

LESSON PLAN DETAILS

Time Required:

The estimated minimum time required to deliver this lesson in its entirety is 80 to 120 minutes.

Resource Requirements:

1. Internet access (video DVD can be provided if no internet access) to download the tool kit.
2. SmartBoard
3. Tablets, iPads or computers to view video and to run the “Balancing the Boreal” App
4. Printer for paper materials

The LSFES (www.lsfes.org) and the LSLBO (www.lslbo.org) can provide the full lesson kit with materials or you can download and print the kit components separately from either website.

KIT COMPONENTS:

This lesson kit is split into multiple components and each component will help reinforce the basic ideas surrounding Indigenous traditional use and sustainable management of the boreal forest.

Lesson Overview

1. Teacher Resource Package:

The Teacher Resource Package includes:

1. Background Information
2. Indigenous traditional use facts
3. Sustainable forest management facts
4. Additional educational resources

2. Video - “Balancing the Boreal: Indigenous Traditional Use and Boreal Forest Management”:

The video is 25 minutes long and introduces two concepts:

- a) Indigenous traditional use in the boreal forest; and,
- b) The interaction between Indigenous traditional use and sustainable forest management.

Through interviews with indigenous traditional use technicians, community members and forestry professionals, students will gain a better understanding of Indigenous traditional use in the boreal forest and how forestry works with indigenous communities to incorporate these important areas into their sustainable forest management plans.

The video includes a discussion guide to facilitate conversation in the classroom

You can access the video by going to lsfes.org/resources

3. “Balancing the Boreal” App: Classroom Activity

Using information provided on indigenous traditional use, forest management practices, and moose habitat requirements, students will attempt to balance the boreal as they develop a series of sustainable harvesting plans that will sustain their mill operations, while incorporating the needs of a local first nation community to maintain important moose habitat in their local area. Increasingly complex scenarios are included for students to complete.

Included with the “Balancing the Boreal” App digital classroom activity are the following resources:

1. Background Information
2. Student Resource Package
 - a. Map for Classroom activity
 - b. Moose habitat facts
 - c. Indigenous traditional use facts
 - d. Forest manager facts
 - e. Student worksheet
3. Glossary of Terms
4. Classroom Activity Discussion Guide

The Balancing the Boreal App is available at both Itunes and Google Play app stores. Additional information on downloading the App is available on the [LSFES.org](https://lsfes.org) and [LSLBO.org](https://lslbo.org) websites.

Class Discussions

Instructor led class discussions are an important component of this lesson. Instructors are encouraged to engage in class discussions with students using the discussion guides at the end of each section of the lesson. Students are encouraged to discuss their perspectives with each other during the classroom activity.

Alternative Lesson Plan Ideas

The lesson includes opportunities for alternative delivery options. These alternative options include:

1. To enhance the class discussion, instructors are encouraged to invite professional foresters and/or forest technicians, Elders, traditional use technicians, traditional land users and/or knowledge holders to the classroom to discuss topics introduced in the video and enrich class discussions.
2. The lesson is designed to be a step by step lesson plan; however, both the video and app can be used as standalone activities with teachers encouraging class discussion afterwards.