



Conservationist for Kids

Supplement for Classroom Teachers – Winter 2009
“Exploring New York’s Rivers”

Leave No Child Inside

One of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) priorities is to connect New Yorkers to nature. *Conservationist for Kids* has been created as one aspect of DEC’s *Leave No Child Inside* program. Our goal is to encourage children to go outdoors and explore natural areas and to develop an interest in environmental stewardship.

Using *Conservationist for Kids* in the Classroom

Conservationist for Kids, and an accompanying teacher supplement, is distributed to public school fourth grade classes three times each school year (fall, winter, spring). These materials are also available at www.dec.ny.gov in both HTML and PDF formats. Teachers and students may e-mail questions and suggestions to us at cforkids@gw.dec.state.ny.us

Information and activities in *Conservationist for Kids* encourage readers to explore outdoors. Read the magazine as a class exercise or have your students read independently. The activities in the magazine may be completed by your students at school or at home. Additional activities and resources can be found in this teacher supplement and on DEC’s website at www.dec.ny.gov (Look for *Conservationist for Kids* under the Education heading.) If you receive more copies of *Conservationist for Kids* than you require for your students, please share the extras with your school library, curriculum specialists and other teachers.

MST Curriculum Connections

The activities in this issue of *Conservationist for Kids* have been correlated to the New York State Math, Science and Technology Learning Standards for fourth grade, below. Connections to other learning standards are also valid.

What’s Your Watershed Address:
MST2. *Information Systems 1-3*
MST4. *Science: The Physical Setting 2*
MST4. *Science: The Living Environment 6*
MST6. *Interconnectedness 1, 2*

Water Words:
MST4. *Science: The Physical Setting 2*
MST4. *Science: The Living Environment 6*

More Great Stuff

Printable activity sheets and links to other resources can be found on our website. Go to www.dec.ny.gov and look for *Conservationist for Kids* under the Education heading. You will also find back issues of *Conservationist for Kids* and the activity sheets and teacher supplements associated with them. The answer key to the “Water Words” crossword from the Winter 2009 issue is here as well.

Supplemental Activities for the Classroom

Celebrate the “Quad”

In 2009, New Yorkers are celebrating the 400th anniversary of Henry Hudson’s voyage up the Hudson River and Samuel de Champlain’s journey on Lake Champlain, aka “The Quadricentennial.” The celebrations also commemorate the 200th anniversary of Robert Fulton’s landmark steamboat trip on the Hudson River. Information and curriculum are available at www.exploreny400.com and at www.emsc.nysed.gov/ciai/chf/chf.html

Paddle to the Sea

Read *Paddle to the Sea* by Holling C. Holling and follow Paddle’s journey along a map. Have the students consider where Paddle would travel if he were placed in a stream near their home or school. In 1966 *Paddle to the Sea* was released as a 28-minute film from the National Film Board of Canada (available today on VHS and DVD at many local libraries). For curriculum on *Paddle to the Sea*, developed by the Ohio Sea Grant, visit the National Sea Grant Libraries at <http://nsgd.gso.uri.edu/ohsu/ohsue91001.pdf>

Teacher Workshops

For teachers who have participated in a Project Learning Tree or Project WET workshop, the following activities complement the Winter 2009 issue of *Conservationist for Kids*.

Project Learning Tree Activities

Every Drop Counts
Field, Forest and Stream

Project WET Activities

The Incredible Journey
Rainy Day Hike
Branching Out

For information about workshops and about how to obtain these curriculum and activity guides, visit www.dec.ny.gov/education/1913.html

Web-based Resources

General information about water, watersheds and the life they support:

www.epa.gov/owow/kids.html EPA “Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds” website for kids
www.epa.gov/safewater/kids/flash/flash_watercycle.html EPA’s interactive water cycle for kids
<http://cfpub.epa.gov/surf/locate/index.cfm> EPA “Surf Your Watershed”
www.dec.ny.gov/lands/26561.html DEC Watersheds, Lakes and Rivers page
www.dec.ny.gov/lands/25604.html DEC Watershed Stewardship page
www.dec.ny.gov/23.html DEC information and fact sheets about animals, plants and aquatic life

Water-related curricula:

www.eeweek.org National Environmental Education Week

- see lesson plans about water under “Curricula Library”

www.wef.org/AboutWater/ForEducators/CurriculumMaterials/ Water Environment Federation

www.riverofwords.org River of Words art and poetry program

Hudson River information and curricula:

www.dec.ny.gov/lands/25564.html DEC Hudson River page

www.dec.ny.gov/lands/4920.html DEC Hudson River Estuary Program

- see “Education” under “Resources for the Public” for Hudson River lesson plans

www.clearwater.org/index.html Hudson River Sloop Clearwater

www.teachingthehudsonvalley.org Teaching the Hudson Valley