
4

*Species-
At-Risk
Education Kit*

Species-At-Risk Education Kit



About Nature NB

Nature NB (formerly The NB Federation of Naturalists) was founded in 1972: “to encourage a better understanding of the natural environment and to awaken concern towards our province’s natural heritage”. It has been a major proponent of natural areas in New Brunswick for over 25 years. The organization is presently comprised of over 14 naturalist clubs with active science experts from across the province. Nature NB also has hundreds of individual members.

Our province’s naturalists bring a unique perspective to the environmental and conservation movement. The prime passion of most naturalists is the observation of nature with a strong emphasis on observation and specific knowledge of species. With their experience and perspective, naturalists have witnessed many of New Brunswick’s conservation problems first hand. The NB naturalist’s community has been actively involved, mostly on a volunteer level, with many issues concerning natural areas and species-at-risk. A special committee of the Federation, with leadership from the Piper Project at all stages, chose endangered species in our province as the focus of this kit.

Our mission

“to celebrate, conserve and protect New Brunswick’s natural heritage, through education, networking and collaboration.”

Copyright © 2009 by Nature NB (NBFN)

This kit can be freely copied for use as a Nature NB education tool. No part of these materials may be otherwise reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means without permission from the Nature NB president or Executive Director.

For permission contact information, please refer to our website:

www.naturenb.ca

ISBN 0-9732708-1-0

Acknowledgements

The Species-At-Risk Education Kit is a fine example of how information and resources are shared throughout our province. This education kit would not have been completed without the very important contribution of many people. Nature NB would like to pay special tribute to the partners who were directly involved in the design, content and review of this kit, as well as its overall vision. All of the following partners shared huge amounts of their time and energy to make this kit a success:

- Species-at-Risk biologists, **Maureen Toner** and **Jeff Hoyt**, of the Fish and Wildlife Branch of the Department of Natural Resources and Energy (NBDNRE)
- Biologists and educators, **Roland Chiasson**, **Sabine Dietz**, **Carole LeBlanc** and **Lewnanny Richardson**, Species at Risk, Nature NB
- Species-at-Risk biologist, **Diane Amirault** of the Canadian Wildlife Service, Sackville, NB
- Eco-centre director and biologist, **Géraldine Arsenault**, La dune de Bouctouche
- Naturalist and educator, **Rose-Alma Mallet**, Association des naturalistes de la baie de Bouctouche
- Curriculum consultants, **Mark Holland** and **Pierre Plourde**, Department of Education

The curriculum links in the Species-At-Risk Education Kit are taken from the New Brunswick grade 4 Science curriculum guide. This education kit would not have been completed without the very important contribution of many people. Naturalists **Reggie Webster** and **Richard Blacquiére**, NB Museum staff **Donald McAlpine** and **David Clark** and **Judy Loo** kindly assisted with the review of the kit. Nature NB would also like to thank the Acadian Peninsula School District 9, especially Science Curriculum Supervisor Bernard St.-Pierre, who conducted a pilot of this education kit in conjunction with educators from the Nature NB - Species at Risk program. A special thanks goes to the following teachers for letting us use their classrooms to test the kit: Henri Poirier, Bertrand Brideau, Jeanne d'Arc Millot, Nicole Arsenault, Cécile Robichaud and Cécile Larocque.

The curriculum links in the Species-At-Risk Education Kit are taken from the New Brunswick Grade 4 Science curriculum guide. Special thanks are also extended to the Nature Canada, for use of their Species-At-Risk Education Guide, and Ontario Nature, for their Wildlife in Jeopardy Kit.

The production of this important environmental education tool would not have been possible without generous contributions from the NB Wildlife Trust Fund, the Government of Canada Habitat Stewardship Program for Species-at-Risk, the Canadian Heritage Official Languages Support Programs Branch and the NB Environmental Trust Fund.

The Species-At-Risk Education Kit was coordinated by Marieka Arnold of Nature NB. Nicole Comeau of Nature NB and La dune de Bouctouche conducted part of the research for this project. Carole LeBlanc of the Piper Project/Projet Siffleur designed the Life as a Piping Plover game.

This kit was edited by Alison Hughes, writer and photographer, Chamcook, N.B. Translation of the Species-At-Risk Education Kit was done by Ronald Fournier, Glassville, NB. Kit layout and design are by DPG Communication, Caraquet, NB.

This kit was reviewed in 2009 by Vanessa Roy-McDougall and Roland Chiasson of Nature NB.



Introduction to the Species-At-Risk Education Kit

The NB Species-At-Risk Education Kit is written primarily for the province's teachers. Nature NB believes that it is important for teachers and students to learn more about our province's endangered species and habitats. This kit is a source of authoritative information, combined with hands-on classroom activities and lesson plans. It is keyed to the NB Grade 4 science curriculum. Kits are also available at the Grade 7 science level. Many of the activities in both kits can be adapted to grades up to the high school level. Educators and students will learn about the disappearance of habitats and the impact this has on flora and fauna. The Species-At-Risk Kit fulfills outcomes in the science curriculum while suggesting realistic ways that people of all ages can make a difference in protecting the environment.

How To Use This Kit

The kit and the activities are organized for you to use easily. Start by reading the background information for any class activity. Whether you do a few activities or all of them, you will probably find it easier to use the worksheets like a workbook. Copy and hand them out to the students to give them instructions for the activities, questions to research and think about, interesting facts to read, and ideas for things they can do to help wildlife. As suggested in "Helpful Habits", try to reduce paper use by making double-sided copies and encouraging sharing.

Educator's Guidelines

Diversity in Learning Styles

Children learn in a variety of ways. David A. Kolb introduces the four different learning styles of the experiential learner in his Experiential Learning Theory. Another learning style theory was developed by Howard Gardner with the concept of multiple intelligences. This Species-At-Risk Education Kit provides well-rounded activities that cater to different ways of learning. After all, a classroom is an example of natural diversity. Therefore, the varied approaches in the activities are themselves an exercise in respecting diversity.

Curriculum Links

This kit attempts to reflect and support the aim of science education in the Atlantic Provinces, to develop scientific literacy. The activities contained in the Species-At-Risk Education Kit are referenced to the Atlantic Science Curriculum, Common Front Matter, January 2001. The Atlantic Canadian Science Curriculum is consistent with the science framework described in the pan-Canadian Common Framework of Science Learning Outcomes K to 12. Specific curriculum links with the Species-At-Risk Education Kit are outlined in Appendix 1.