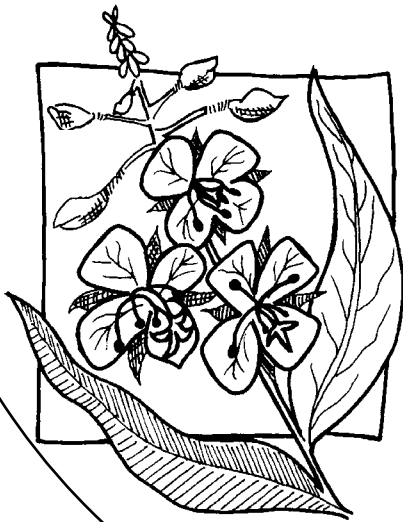


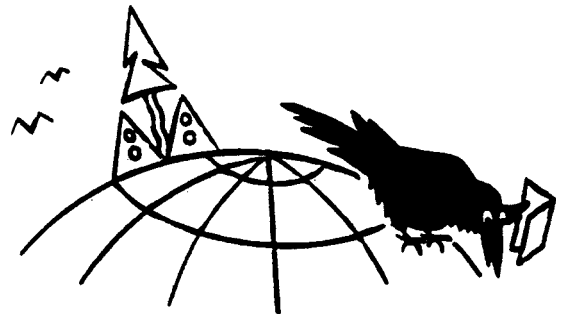
# - Yukon - Backyard Biodiversity & Beyond



**A Handbook for  
Students and Teachers**

Yukon Edition  
December, 1996

**Revised  
Edition  
March 2010**



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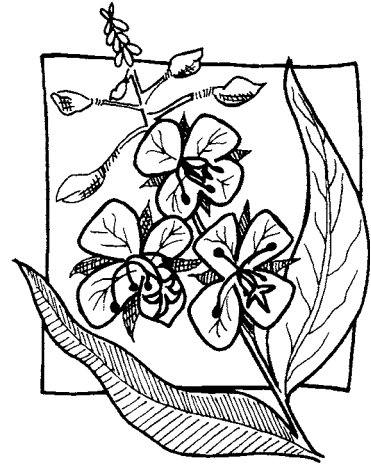
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## PREFACE TO THE YUKON EDITION

The Yukon is fortunate to have such friendly British Columbian neighbours who created the document “**Backyard Biodiversity and Beyond - A Handbook for Students and Teachers**” and then agreed to share it with us for use in Yukon schools. The Yukon version was created after consultation with many educators, scientists, and other interested parties.

The initial funding for this project was provided by the Global Education Office of the Yukon Teachers’ Association with assistance from the Yukon Government, Environment Yukon (formerly known as Department of Renewable Resources). The revisions to the first edition were completed by Grace Snider. The 2010 edition research and revisions were completed by Lina Radziunas, Sylvie Binette , Jo Lukawitski and Olivia Hell.

Enjoy!



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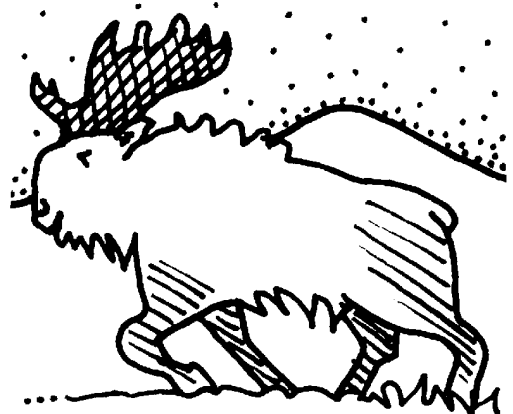
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# PREFACE TO ORIGINAL BC EDITION

## *“Study Nature, Not Books”*

These words, written in the last century by the great Swiss biologist Louis Aggassiz, express the feelings of the steering committee responsible for the creation of this learning resource. All through this exciting guide, the authors encourage teachers and students to go outside, to look at the world, to learn the names of the creatures of the world, to study nature.

This project was both exciting and fun for us to work on. We all have a deep concern for the natural world that grew in part out of our early experiences in nature. Many of us were young naturalists exploring the natural world. Through our contacts with teachers and other interested adults, our interest in nature grew. Now, in much of our daily work, we try to encourage an interest in nature in others.

We hope that you, the teachers and students using this learning resource, will be inspired to go out and study nature. We hope too that you will begin to see the complexities of the issues involved in the preservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. Things aren't always black and white, and trade-offs often have to be made. But in the end, we have to be concerned with the preservation of biodiversity and natural systems and processes, and our actions must lead to this end.

We're interested in hearing from you. If you find the publication useful, or if you find problems with it, please let us know. Send comments to the Environmental Education Coordinator, Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks, 810 Blanshard Street, Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4.

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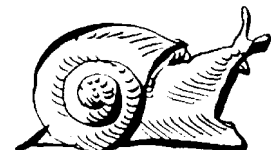
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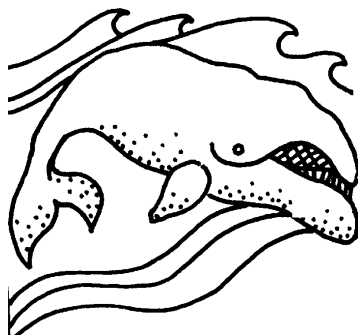
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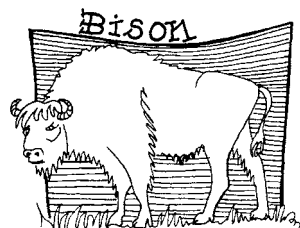
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# INTRODUCTION

*“Biological diversity is the key to the maintenance of the world as we know it.”*

Edward O. Wilson, 1992

**Welcome** to a biodiversity resource kit that brings messages about the nature and value of biodiversity in Yukon into the backyards of your home and your school. This "Yukonized" learning resource features Yukon flora and fauna and Yukon biodiversity issues and success stories.

We hope that by using the activities in *Backyard Biodiversity and Beyond*, you, your students—and through them the community—will be personally involved in learning about, and participating in, activities to celebrate and preserve or restore the biodiversity of their communities. Awareness of global biodiversity will grow out of an appreciation and understanding of local biodiversity.

Designed for students in the upper elementary and intermediate grades, this kit features an interdisciplinary approach. Five modules present activities in a variety of subject areas.

**Module 1** - Biodiversity: The Spice of Life

**Module 2** - Connections: The Basics of Biodiversity

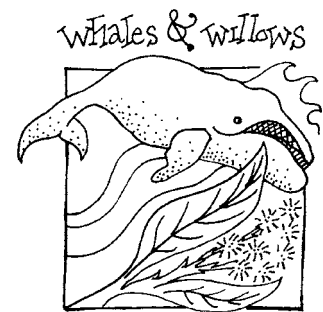
**Module 3** - Biodiversity in the Yukon

**Module 4** - Endangered Species/Endangered Spaces

**Module 5** - Biodiversity: Think Globally!

**Act Locally!** - Your Community Action Toolkit

**Appendices:** References, Glossary, Yukon Species List, Alien Goldfish Articles, Yukon Wildlife At Risk, Project WILD: Cross Reference, On-Line Biodiversity Information, Yukon Act Locally Module



Everything you need to get started is included in each module.

1. **Outcomes Charts** help identify the important Knowledge, Attitude and Process outcomes. NOTE: A more current cross-reference to Prescribed Learning Outcomes is available.
2. **A Word to the Teacher** introduces each module.
3. **Background** information summarizes important concepts in a format suitable for use by both teacher and students. Use **Background** information as a briefing note, as a student handout or in a learning centre.
4. **Your Turn** activity masters develop important biodiversity concepts from the perspective of different subject areas and appeal to a variety of learning styles.
5. **Reach Out!** activities will extend the study of biodiversity.

Select and adapt activities that are appropriate for the needs of your students.



### **What we believe about learning**

1. Learning requires the active participation of the learner and is both an individual and a social process.
2. People learn in a variety of ways and at different rates.
3. Learning environmentally responsible behaviour requires the participation of teachers and students in personally meaningful experiences which focus on emotions, values and attitudes as well as on knowledge and awareness.
4. Learning about biodiversity involves the integration of environmental concepts in all subject areas and the participation of teachers and students in first-hand contact with the natural world.

### **What we believe about biodiversity**

1. Our species is only one of many millions of species on Earth; human activity should not jeopardize the evolutionary potential of living things.
2. Every form of life is unique.
3. The long-term conservation of biological diversity requires protection of representative and unique ecosystems and sound stewardship of lands and waters.
4. The preservation of biodiversity is crucial to the maintenance of healthy natural systems on the planet.



### **Purposes of biodiversity education**

1. To promote interest in learning about, enjoying and sustaining the biodiversity of Yukon;
2. To integrate information and activities on biodiversity with curriculum objectives;
3. To implement and promote effective environmental education strategies developed in cooperation with schools, appropriate agencies and organizations;
4. To encourage teachers, students and the community to conserve and maintain biodiversity at a local, regional, provincial, national and international level;
5. To provide opportunities for outdoor learning experiences.

### **Specific goals of the *Backyard Biodiversity and Beyond* education kit**

As a result of participation in the activities of *Backyard Biodiversity and Beyond*, teachers and students will have opportunities to:

1. acquire knowledge of the representative and unique biodiversity that makes up Yukon's natural heritage;
2. develop a conservation ethic which promotes biodiversity in Yukon and throughout the world;
3. appreciate and support the intrinsic, inspirational and aesthetic values of biodiversity.

Good luck! Have fun! And share your successes and ideas with others!