

# Hope Mountain Centre for Outdoor Learning

# Beaver Tales Program

## Curriculum Overview

### Learning Outcomes — Students will be able to;

- Understand the importance of beavers to First Nation culture and Canadian history.
- Describe the *physical adaptations* that enable beavers to survive in their environment.
- Describe the *behavioural adaptations* that enable beavers to survive.
- Recognize beaver habitat and evidence of beaver activity in the outdoors.

### Pre-Trip — Build vocabulary, establish key concepts, build anticipation.

- **In-Class Presentation.** A large velcro board and graphics illustrate the basic components of a beaver colony — dam, pond, lodge, food cache. A beaver puppet is used to “build a beaver” and show its physical adaptations for water.
- **Beaver Pelt.** Students can touch a real beaver pelt and understand why their fur is so valuable to humans.
- **Fieldtrip expectations.** The naturalist will inform the students of what they’ll be doing and where they’ll be going, with tips regarding clothing and footwear.

### Fieldtrip — Experiential learning; demonstrate vocabulary and concepts with direct experience.

- **Explore local beaver habitat.** Students will explore ponds and river channels near their community, looking for evidence of recent beaver activity.
- **Close observation.** Students will look at the trees that beavers like to eat while looking closely at beaver skulls and teeth to see how well designed they are for chewing.
- **Reinforce concepts.** Review the beaver’s physical and behavioural adaptations while visiting the environment where they live.

### Post-Trip — Reinforce vocabulary and key concepts, students investigate further and present their knowledge to the class. These activities are teacher-driven, with support from the naturalist.

- **Further Research.** Students can choose a plant or animal that benefits from the wetland habitat created by beavers.
- **Artwork Project.** Students can build their own beaver puppet, including physical adaptations for living in water. Create drawings and stories based on what they learned about beavers.



The Healthy Hydration Company™



HOPE MOUNTAIN CENTRE  
for outdoor learning

