



# DISCOVER YOUR ANIMAL SPIRIT – KINDERGARTEN TO GRADE 4 TOUR

## Teachers Guide

### OVERVIEW

In ancient times animals were humans and they considered themselves brothers and sisters. Some people were known to transform themselves into animals to help one another; stories and legends about the relationships between animals and people are intertwined with our cultures. Learn about our connections to the animals that live in our environment, and how they help us to understand the world around us.

Students will be introduced to four animals found in the traditional territory of the Squamish and Lil'wat Nations – Bear, Eagle, Hummingbird and Wolf. They will discover how these animals survive in their habitat and how they are regarded by First Nations peoples. Students will learn how to identify the animal features in Salish art form, and learn the traditional names for these creatures.

Join a Cultural Ambassadors for a fun-filled tour experience, where students from Kindergarten through Grade 4 will discover their animal spirit totem. This tour is action-packed with storytelling, learning opportunities, craft activities and a participatory song and dance.

### YOUR EXPERIENCE WILL INCLUDE

Please allow 2 hours for this tour experience, and arrive 15 minutes prior to scheduled visit time to allow for coat check and washroom break.

- Welcome Song
- Spectacular 15 Minute Movie
- Storytelling Session
- Informative Learning Session in our Longhouse
  - Storyboards to discuss animal attributes and design features
  - Learning about relationships between humans and animals in their environment
  - Students will be encourage to identify with one of these four animals
  - Craft Activity - Animal Headdress, colouring and some scissor work required
- Participate in a First Nation Drum and Song Circle and portray your Animal Spirit

### EXTEND YOUR VISIT

- Further discover the museum with your class chaperones, as a self-guided option following your tour experience.



- A self-guided tour of our 'Outdoor Forest Walk' with your class chaperones, depending on seasonal availability.
- Let us know if we can provide colour sheets and a scavenger hunt as additional activities, guided by your chaperones.
- A visit to our amazing Café and Gallery & Gift shop is also a must!
- View our craft activity list and book additional craft activities for your visit!
- Let us know if your group wishes to order a pre-booked lunch from our Thunderbird Café, or enjoy their own packed lunches and require a location, we can provide space for dining.

### SCHOOL RATES

Admission Rates	Retail
Student – Kindergarten – Grade 4	\$5

1. Admission rates are in Canadian funds and are subject to 5% GST
2. All Teachers and Chaperones have complimentary admission
3. Squamish & Lil'wat Nation Members enjoy free admission

## Curriculum Overview

### BIG IDEA

Animals that inhabit our natural environment share common requirements with humans for sustaining their life and species. First Nations people understand how to observe the animals in their territory to learn about the world surrounding them, and to discover more about themselves.

### PRIOR KNOWLEDGE

In order to understand this lesson students will need to know, or have prior knowledge of, or will need to review the following;

- Whistler is in the Traditional Territory of two separate and distinct Indigenous communities, Squamish Nation and Lil'wat Nation

### CURRICULUM COMPETENCIES

Gather information on two local Indigenous communities; understand their location and how each community adapted to their environment

- Participate in oral history through song & dance
- Interpret stories to compare and contrast Indigenous and Non Indigenous relationships with animals
- Ask questions, make inferences, and draw conclusions about the human & animal relationship



## CONTENT

The Squamish and Lil'wat culture is a reflection of the land, it adapts to its environment

- Each animal, like people have a role within the community
- Examine the effects that activities in your community have on the animal's lives
- Identify how animals and humans share similar requirements for sustaining life
- Humans can learn about their environment by observing animals

## CORE COMPETENCIES

Communication - Connect & Engage with others (to share & develop ideas)

Creative Thinking - Generating Idea - I get ideas when I use my senses to explore

Positive Personal and Cultural Identity - Relationships and Cultural Contexts

Social Responsibility - Contributing to Community and Caring for the Environment

## FIRST PEOPLES PRINCIPLES OF LEARNING

Important lessons are found in this program, which are based in First Nations teachings.

- Learning ultimately supports the well-being of the self, the family, the community, the land, the spirits and the ancestors
- Learning involves recognizing the consequences of one's actions
- Learning recognizes the role of indigenous knowledge

## POSSIBLE EXTENTIONS

Using their knowledge learned on their visit, students can be encouraged to extend their learning by:

- Join a group discussion on
  - Why you choose your animal spirit totem
  - What things you learned about animals and how they share similar yet different values
- Interactive activity
  - Develop a drum song based on First Nations drumming songs for your animal spirit totem
  - Choreograph a dance for your animal spirit totem
  - Write a story or legend about you animal spirit totem

## RESOURCES

Sharing our World –Animals of the Native Northwest  
Coast

Native Explore  
ISBN 978-1-55476-188-3

Explore the Animals-Colouring & Learning Book  
Native Explore  
ISBN 978-1-55476-183-8

Bear Smart Kids- A book to make you smarter than  
the average bear.

Get Bear Smart Society  
[www.getBEARsmart.com](http://www.getBEARsmart.com)