



Save The River® / Upper St. Lawrence RIVERKEEPER®

Protecting the St. Lawrence River now, and for generations to come

It's Hard to be a Tern

A Distance Learning Guide for Educators and Guardians

Save The River is committed to providing quality educational programs and resources for formal and informal educators throughout our region. Save The River has developed Virtual Learning Guides and Resources for students, parents, and educators who are interested in learning more about the St. Lawrence River.

The *It's Hard to be a Tern* video can be integrated into classroom curriculum and addresses New York State Science and(or) ELA Learning Standards with a focus on K-3 grade levels. Save The River can work with you to tailor pre-and post-discussion content to meet your classroom needs.

The Common Tern gracefully skims across the surface of the river to take a sip of water on the wing. This bird is one of the area's most threatened: regional populations fell by almost 90% in the last 50 years! The world is a dangerous place for a Common Tern, with many perils and predators. Hazards include Great-horned Owls, scurrying mink, habitat usurpation by Ring-billed Gulls, and fluctuating water levels. Where will terns nest and hatch their young?



Fortunately, efforts made by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and others have rejuvenated regional tern populations. Save the River, Dr. Lee Harper of the Riveredge Associates, Thousand Islands Land Trust, and dedicated volunteers head out on the river in this video to prepare nesting sites, set up exclusion grids, and perform weekly checks of the nesting locations. Your students will learn how our work helps to restore the tern population and preserve the ecological diversity of the St. Lawrence River.

There are many additional fun and educational activities you can use to engage your students with St. Lawrence River island habitats both in the classroom or during distance learning. In addition make sure to visit our website: www.savetheriver.org and follow our [Facebook Page](#) to learn more about what Save The River is doing to protect our waterways, and to stay up to date on upcoming adult and youth educational opportunities.

Save The River envisions a healthy Upper St. Lawrence River that provides safe drinking water, is home to a thriving range of indigenous species and supports sustainable economic activity.

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