



# Save The River® / Upper St. Lawrence RIVERKEEPER®

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

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## Exploring Autumn Virtual Field Trip

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. While Save The River plans to host in person educator training, field trips and K-12 educational programs when we are safely able to come together once again, we have developed Virtual Learning Field Trips and Resources for students, parents, and educators who are interested in learning more about the St. Lawrence River.

Imagine it is autumn. We are out on a hike along the river, and the fall leaves crunch underfoot. There is a crispness to the air, and we can hear the calls of birds in large flocks, ready to **migrate** south for winter. You wonder what game fish (like the **muskellunge**) do during the winter, since they can't fly south.

Now imagine that the sun sets, and dusk falls. What animals are **crepuscular**? Mammals? Amphibians? Reptiles? As it gets darker and the days shorten, we use artificial light at night - but remember to turn off the lights to avoid **light pollution**!

By attending this virtual field trip exploring autumn, your students will learn about the changing seasons and the adaptations of animals. Your students will learn about **hibernation**, migration, and how animals prepare for a cold winter. Students will make observations about animals and the environment.

The virtual field trip Exploring Autumn 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.

There are many additional fun and educational activities you can use to engage your students with St. Lawrence River seasons, both in the classroom or through distance learning. Be sure to visit our website: [www.savetheriver.org](http://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.



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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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## CURRICULUM RESOURCES

### **Audubon New York and National Audubon Society**

Subjects: Bird migration, identification, behavior, habitat, bird cams

Grade Level: K-12

Website Link: [Audubon Teacher Resources](#), [Audubon Adventures](#), [NY Live Bird Cams](#)

### **Cornell Lab of Ornithology**

Subjects: Bird diversity, courtship, life cycles (nests and eggs), life in a nest, identification, flight and migration, behavior, and weekly family quests

Grade Level: K-2, 3-5, 6-8

### **New York State Department of Environmental Conservation**

Subjects: [Invasive Species](#), [Outdoor Observations](#), [Journaling and Nature Activities](#), [I Fish New York](#), [Caregiver, Parent, and Educator Resources at Home](#), [Quick Family Activities for Inside or Outside](#), [NYS Conservationist For Kids Magazine](#), [Animal Tracks](#)

Grade Level: K-12

Website Link: Click on each topic link to the access the website (above)

### **US Fish and Wildlife Service**

Subjects: Conservation careers, live animal webcams, fish and aquatic conservation, fisheries science, junior duck stamp contest, designing fish friendly culverts,

Grade Level: K-12

Website Link: [USFWS Classroom Curriculum and Resources](#)

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