



Save The River® / Upper St. Lawrence RIVERKEEPER®

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

Explore My Backyard Using My Senses

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.

Our Backyard/Schoolyard Nature Walk is an introductory lesson encouraging the students to use their sense of smell, touch, hearing and sight to learn about the wonders in their backyard or school yard. Explain to the children that they are going to go for a walk outside and experience the amazement of the world around them. Encourage them to record, draw, or write whatever it is that they hear, see, smell, and touch in their journal. (Before leaving explain that the sense of taste is not going to be explored on their nature walk.)



Model for the students the process of using their senses to explore the world around them. After some time of free exploration, guide students to close their eyes and just listen. If more than one bird is chirping, see if they can differentiate between the two sounds. Ask them if they hear any other sounds.

Encourage students to touch things and record the things that they feel (leaves, dirt, twigs). Students are encouraged to crunch leaves and pick up pinecones. Guide the students to look up, look down and all around to take in as much as they can see. Give them time to record their findings.

After the walk, come back inside and provide an opportunity for each student to share one thing that they discovered during their backyard/schoolyard walk. The children were using their senses to explore and learn about the things around them. Explain to the students that they were using skills scientists use to observe plants and animals.

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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