

This Place

A BOOK BY

DIVISION 11 "WOLF PACK"



ARDEN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 2019

COURTENAY, BC

This Place

A BOOK BY

DIVISION 11, GRADE 3/4

ARDEN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, 2019

OUR INQUIRY QUESTION

**How can we be a community of learners
who make a difference in the world?**

BIG IDEA

**Everything in the environment is connected,
and we have a responsibility to care for it.**

Our Community of Learners

Teacher: Naomi Radawiec

EA: Rachael Bloomfield

Macey Leighton

Finn Parton

Xander Lee

Freya O’Kane

Parker Tinga

Logan Wannop

Lily Smith

Ali’i Tobacca

Emily Peat

Hunter Klassen

Leah Frelone-Mugford

Devan Armstrong

Camron Bruns

Annika Vesper

Jake Greaves

Dale Meesterlloyd

Sonja Eigler

James Zsiros

Benjamin Martin



Mrs. Radawiec

Thank-you for reading our class book! We hope you are inspired to get outside, explore, and connect with the land. Find a sit spot near your home that you can visit regularly. Notice what you see, hear, smell, touch, feel (emotions), and wonder.

Each time we visit a natural place we can notice the changes that are happening throughout the seasons. There are many different ways you can connect with a natural place. Embrace the uncertainty. You cannot plan for what will happen naturally on these visits. Nature is full of surprises and endless opportunities for learning. You will be surprised at the meaningful learning that occurs and the positive impact this learning has on you, including your overall sense of self and wellbeing.

When we visit the forest next to our school we are building memories. Each memory deepens the connection we have with that place. We develop a desire to take care of the earth through purposeful and repeated visits.

We also have a lot to learn from Indigenous cultures about being stewards of the land. Talk to an Elder, learn the culture, learn about traditional ecological knowledge, and discover the history of the place you live in.

Place-based learning has the power to transform our thinking, enliven our spirit, and change the way we live on this earth. It is the best *first step* to take in restoring balance and becoming stewards of the land.



Miss B.

I like to go in the forest by the river and sit on a log. I look around for beautiful rocks, listen to the river flow and listen to the birds. I smell the sweet smells of the plants. I love the sun dappling through the trees. It always makes me feel really calm, peaceful, and connected to the earth. It helps me relax and brings me joy!

I love learning about all of the plants and animals, and how they are connected. I'm a part of a large ecosystem. I like to learn what I can do to make sure that the animals around me are safe and protected. I can help them have homes by taking care of the environment in which I hang out in.

Whenever I go into the forest I make sure to not leave any garbage behind. I clean up garbage that other people have left behind. I also keep my distance from wild animals so I don't disrupt them in their habitat. Our earth is in crisis and it is important that we all do our part to make as small footprint as possible so that future generations get to enjoy the beauty of the natural environment like we do.



Macey

In my sit spot there's a thick tree and there are little pieces of grass that are long and thin. There are also a few skinny trees. I noticed that in the trees there are sometimes birds making chirping sounds. I feel happy and calm when I'm sitting down at the tree. I like how many trees there are in the forest. Nature can teach us to be calm.

It's important to take care of the earth because it's where we were born and where we live. If we don't take care of it then there will be less animals. To take care of the earth we can walk or bike instead of driving cars. We can also take shorter showers.

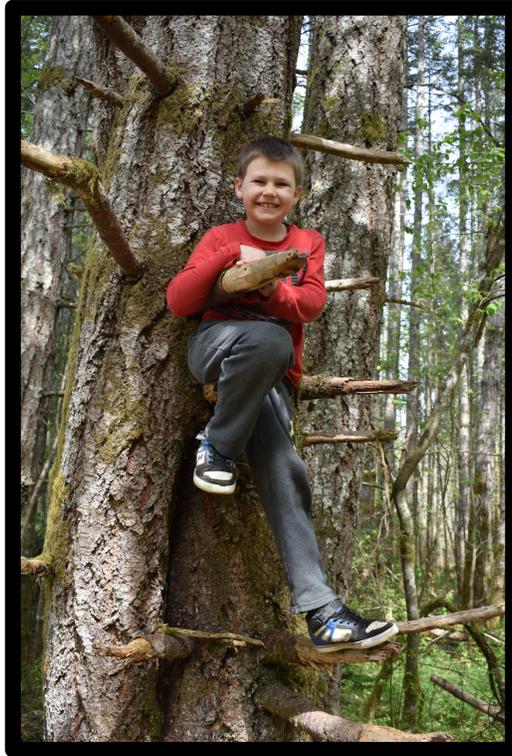


Finn

I like learning in nature because it's natural. Everything around me is trees and grass.

We can learn everything from nature. Like all animals have cool features that we could copy in ways to make life a lot easier. For example, a spider. Spiders have silk that is more powerful than steel. If we find out how to make it, we can have a material that is pretty much the strongest material in the world! Apes are even way smarter than humans because humans may have a more complex brain, except we use our complex brain to harm the environment and the planet.

To help our earth we can stop using stuff like cars and trucks and start using bikes or just walking. Or you could eat meat less often.

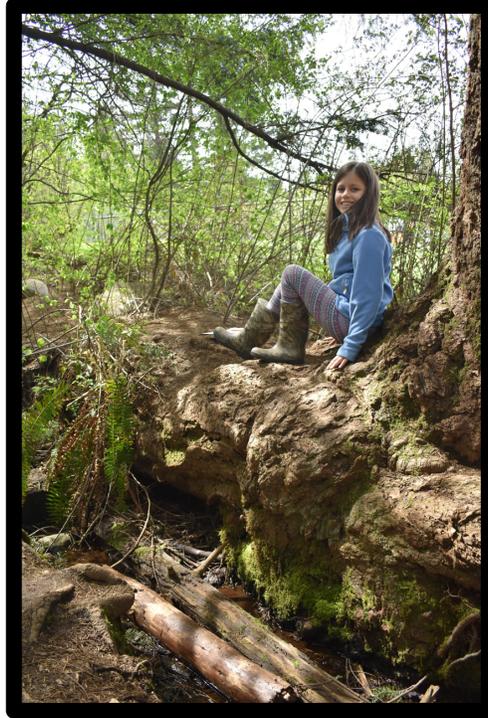


Xander

My sit spot is in a tree. I found my sit spot just by walking around. When I saw it, I noticed that it was a tree that I could climb and sit in! When I was up there, I heard a bird chirping right above my head. I could smell furry cedar because it's mossy. I could feel fuzzy moss and it felt like my pillow. I feel happy and calm in my sit spot because I feel comfortable. I wonder how old this tree is? I like learning in nature because it's fun.

To take care of the earth we can walk or bike instead of driving a car. We can also plant trees. We are cutting down a lot of trees and that impacts the environment because birds live in trees and lots of animals live in the forest. We get air from the trees too!

If we don't take care of the earth, then we won't have the earth to live on. We need to take small steps because big steps are really, really, really hard to take. Small steps are more manageable and sustainable because it's easier to take small steps. For example, start by using less plastic. Or maybe you could use a jar for your garbage to produce less garbage.



Freya

My sit spot is very comfortable. It has more than one spot so my friends can sit there too. The bottom is quite mossy. It's sort of a ditch but I like to call it a river. Two logs make a bridge. I feel happy and calm when I'm in my sit spot. It's surrounded by a lot of trees, bushes, and a thorn bush that's connected to the tree where I'm sitting. I still like it (the thorn bush).

I enjoy going to the forest because we are not in the classroom all day. I enjoy all the activities we do in the forest like our sit spot, playing games, and going on nature walks. I really enjoy it. We can learn from nature that it's a very calm place. It's really quiet, peaceful, and there are not a lot of people around. There are a bunch of different places you can explore in the forest, not just one place that you can go.

We can help our environment by not littering, producing less garbage (just using a jar for your garbage can!). It's important so our world doesn't end...so our trees don't die, so we have enough air, so we can keep our earth going.



Parker

I hear lots of things in the woods. I notice that there are a lot of roots on the dead tree I sit on for my sit spot. There is an infinite amount of trees around me. It makes me feel so happy when I'm in my sit spot.

I like to learn about the ocean because it covers a lot of the earth and there are so many animals and life there (uncountable!).

We can learn how to help nature by exploring it and we can get the dna from animals to know what's healthy for them. It helps scientists know more about them so we can learn more about how to help them.

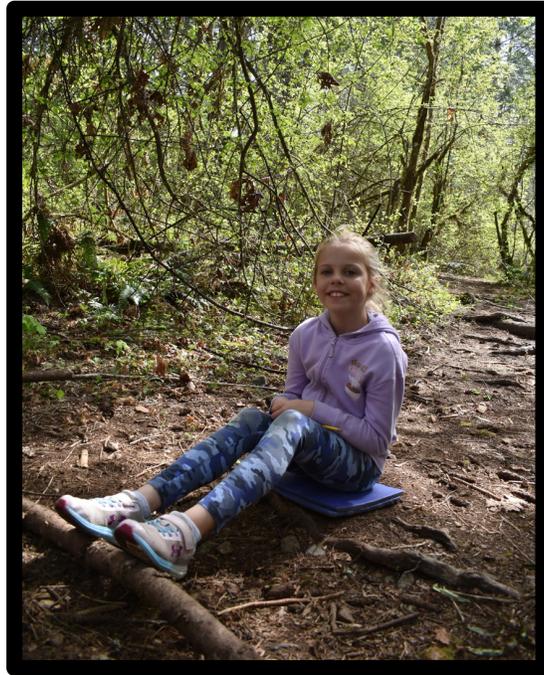
We can help our earth by using less plastic. Don't start using cigarettes because that's actually hurting nature. Sometimes you might forget to stomp them out and then you can make a forest fire and destroy cities and create climate change.



Logan

My sit spot in the forest is high up in a tree. I really liked seeing a bird's nest on the tree beside me. It was a little ways down and there was blue eggs inside! I even saw one of the eggs hatching! I like learning about the trees and insects. Learning in nature makes me feel really happy and really calm. It makes me calm when I see the air breezing through the trees, and see chipmunks going up into the trees and a lot of tiny insects that you don't see if you don't focus.

We can learn to turn off video games and only have 30 min to an hour of video games and then you can go outside for 2 or 3 hours. It should be more than an hour outside. It's important to take care of the earth because if you were a tree and someone sawed you down and never used you, it's being bad for the environment. So if you cut down a tree and plant more than one tree, they grow higher and it gives us more oxygen. We can not kill the animals because it just makes the chain of the animals break, and if you break the middle of the chain it breaks apart so the animals will come less and less...and less and less.



Lily

I notice that in my sit spot there are branches going overtop of me. It's wide open and I can see a lot of stuff from here. I feel, happy, calm, peaceful. In the forest we play fun games. In nature we can learn how to take care of the earth and not ruin our environment.

We can help by using reusable stuff instead of using plastic. For example, water bottles, lunch kits that can be reused, and reusable forks and spoons.

It's important to take care of the earth because if we put plastic into the earth and litter, the animals can die. If a deer eats a smaller animal with plastic in it then they could die. If hunters hunt the deer and cook it, they could also die because the deer have plastic in them. Then we could die if all the animals are extinct and we keep littering. The animals are connected, and they need each other to survive.



Ali'i

I notice that there are a lot of trees around my sit spot. It makes me feel calm, happy and peaceful when I'm sitting here. I found my sit spot when I was walking around the forest. I saw a whole bunch of trees and I thought it would be a good spot so I sat in there.

I like learning about making forts to survive in if you got lost and had to sleep over night. If I got lost I would probably make a fort and if it was summer I would look for berries to eat just in case I got hungry.

We can help our earth by not littering and by not producing as much garbage and plastic. You could ride your bike to school or walk instead of using a car or a bus.

It's important to take care of the earth so that animals don't get endangered and so that they don't eat plastic and garbage.



Emily

My sit spot has moss on the trees and the air smells beautifully like flowers. I also notice that the rotten trees smell good. What I like about it is that I get to have a whole lot of space to myself. I feel calm and not sad.

I like learning in nature because it is one of the things I love. I like going for walks with my dad and my dog too. After the walk I try to catch minnows. At school in the forest I really like to learn about nature because the birds chirp and the sweet smell of flowers fills the air. It's calm and I like it.

It's really important to put our garbage in the garbage can after we are done with it. We can also reuse. It means that you can make other things out of recycling. It's important to take care of the earth so that our earth doesn't smell like pollution.



Hunter

My sit spot is on a little hill and there is a path down to the flowing stream. I notice that in the stream there is a dam that me and my friends built in grade two. There is a little pathway on the left that you take that goes deep into the forest to a spot where we hide during a game and no one would ever find us.

I like learning in nature because it's calm, you don't get disturbed by other people, and it smells like fresh air. In nature we can learn about the different plants and learn how to take care of them.

To help the earth we can produce less garbage and cut down less trees. We can only use areas for houses if it's a wide open field or something. It's important to take care of the earth because if we don't take care of the earth global warming will happen sooner and all the animals could be extinct in the next five to ten years. We all need to help take care of the earth!



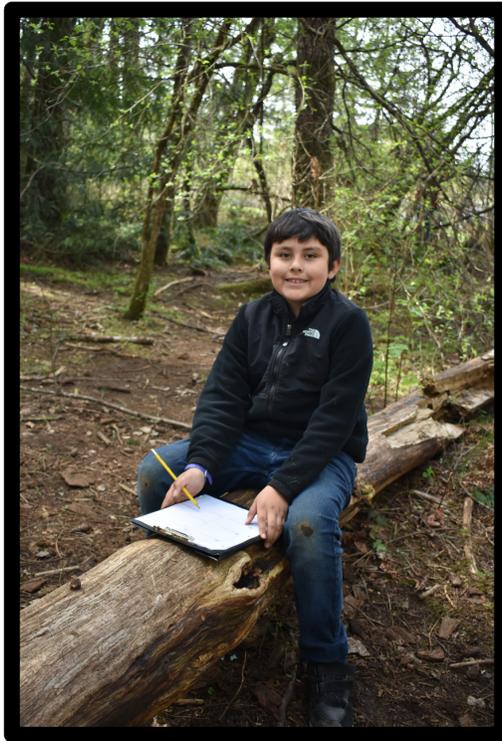
Leah

In my sit spot I notice that there's a little creek right in front of me. The tree I'm leaning on is really big and if I don't have my sweater on it's pretty cold because I'm in the shade.

I like learning in nature because you get to be outside. It's nice to be in a big forest because my backyard is small and it's loud because we are by a street. In nature we can learn about plants and animals.

To help our earth we can grow our own food and it's healthier when you grow them yourself (no chemicals to make them shiny, and no glossy coating). Like on non-organic apples they have a chemical coating that makes them look nice. But if we grow our own food we won't have that problem.

It's important to take care of the earth because we live on this earth and we only have one earth to live on...so we have to take care of it!



Devan

In my sit spot you can lay on the lumpy log. The log is broken. I wonder if it got chopped down or if it fell down by itself? I hear chirping birds and sometimes an owl. I think I saw a squirrel making a hole in a tree for it's family. I feel comfortable in my sit spot. It makes me feel calm when I spend time there.

I like learning in nature because I like learning about plants and animals. We can learn not to touch anything that's living because it's breathing and we need to take care of it. And someone might end up needing it to eat and survive!

We can help the earth by taking shorter showers because it takes the waters from the streams. We want to save the water so the animals can drink it, and we can have enough water for the land. We also don't want to run out of water. It's important to take care of the earth because we don't want anything to die or not be existing anymore. I'd like to tell people, please think before you act, and take care of the earth!



Camron

In my sit spot I noticed that there is a branch that I can sit on. It has another branch behind that another person can sit on if they want to. I notice that it has a handle so you don't fall over. You can put your arm around it and you can dangle your other arm over the edge. I like learning in nature because you get to choose where to sit in the forest. For example, in a tree, by a river or hanging off a tree or something.

We can help our earth by not yanking the leaves off the trees and pulling out random plants. We can help stop littering by putting up signs and telling people not to litter.

It's important to take care for the earth because the earth does so much for us and we should treat it that good. It gives us food because the water and the sun grows stuff and then that stuff goes into our food and then we eat it! So without that, there would be no humans.



Annika

In my sit spot I could hear birds, and kids. I saw the vibrant sun! Nature makes me feel happy. There was a cute snake!

I love going to the beach and learning about ocean animals. In the forest there are bushes. The animals you might see in our forest are raccoons and lots of deer! You might also see enchanting eagles, crows, and vultures.

We can help save the earth by walking or biking instead of driving a car. Keep our earth clean and be a garbage collector! Use less packaging. We need to help the earth so it doesn't die.



Jake

In my sit spot I notice trees, moss, twigs, and leaves. I got up there using branches. I'm sitting up in the tree! I could hear some chirping birds and water splashing. It makes me feel wonderful when I'm sitting in the tree.

I like playing tag in nature. Being outside helps me be entertained and happy. We can learn from nature to not crush plants and snap branches. It's important because it helps the environment.

We can help the earth by biking or riding a skateboard instead of using a car.



Dale

In my sit spot I notice the water down below me as I dip my foot in so it stays cool. I see skinny trees behind me as I sit in the dry dirt. I feel happy calm, peaceful, and all of those lead to fuzziness.

I like learning in nature because it helps me realize how some people are doing damage to mother nature. We can help the earth by using reusable water bottles and stop dumping coffee on the ground. Just use a metal water bottle to keep it warm or cold.

We can learn from nature how it's cool. Mother nature thought humans might be good after the dinosaurs went extinct. But now we are throwing trash on the ground, using lots of plastic, and putting it into the ocean. We can help stop using plastics and throwing it in the water. We have to take care of the earth because otherwise mother nature is getting hurt. Even when we throw one single piece of garbage on the ground. Every piece counts. So let's stop throwing the garbage on the ground and hurting mother nature.



Sonja

In my sit spot in our school forest I see lots of plants growing around it. I also see the water flowing through the creek to the other side. I have a sit spot in my yard too. It's in my front yard. The puddles are getting much smaller and there are lots of flowers growing.

What I like about nature is it's green and alive. Learning in nature makes me feel happy. Nature learning helps us because we are cleaning up the garbage.

One way we can help nature is by growing food in our garden and planting three trees at our house. My dad put some wood pegs in the ground for the stuff in our garden. We are going to plant some vegetables and maybe fruit. If you grow your own food it means that you produce less garbage and it's helping the animals not to eat garbage.

It's important to take care of the earth because we don't want animals and plants to die. We should all help the earth.



James

I noticed in my sit spot there is a slow flowing river in front of me. There are a ton of trees that look long and bent over. I hear birds singing and the river flowing. It makes me feel happy and makes me feel better when I'm sad.

If we learn about nature and know the poisonous plants, then if we get lost in the forest we know what to eat and what not to. In the forest I also like playing games with my class and going on hikes. I like to run around and adventure in the forest.

To help our environment we can grow some of our own food. We can also buy more things made nearby instead of shipping things from far away. It's important to help the earth so we don't make so much pollution.



Ben

In my sit spot if it rains I won't get hit that much because there's a lot of protection from the leaves. If it's really hot the sun won't get me because the leaves block the sun. It's nice and cool there. I made a bridge so people don't have to step in the watery mud.

I like learning in nature because it's fun. You get to be in nature and be calm. It's nice and cool and it's fun to play games in the forest.

We can learn from nature that it's really peaceful. It's a place that you can just be calm and peaceful. Nobody can bug you and it's just a great place to be. We can help the earth by not throwing garbage on the ground. We can play games and clean up garbage. We can also reduce and recycle. That means we can reuse things instead of throwing them away.

It's important to take care of the earth because if we make a big mess of the earth, it will end. Scientists want to keep the earth as clean as possible. But some people litter and it's not good. Every time there are a thousand pieces of garbage, it hurts the earth a lot. It doesn't like having garbage on it. That's why we clean up the earth and do our best.

Ways to Take care of the earth

Connect with the land

Rethink what you buy and what you use

Minimize your clutter and donate old stuff

Refuse single use plastics

Reduce the amount of garbage you produce

Reuse instead of throwing away or getting new stuff

Recycle or upcycle

Start a compost pile or bin

Unplug the TV when you are not using it

Bring a reusable travel mug to the coffee shop

Use canvas bags instead of plastic

Walk or bike instead of driving in a car

Carpool or take the bus

Reduce water waste

Take shorter showers

Turn off the water when not in use

Wear a sweater instead of turning up the heat

Turn off lights when you leave the room

Purchase the right light bulb

Put trash in the bin (don't litter)

Plant your own food

Use both sides of the paper

It can be overwhelming to think about making a whole bunch of changes all at once. Instead, focus on making small changes. Over time these changes will become new habits. This will be a more sustainable approach and will help you to keep on working hard to take care of the earth.

Sticky Note Eco-Challenge

Choose one eco-friendly goal every month to focus on. Write your goal on a sticky note and reflect on how you are doing each day. Ask for support from others to help you with your goal or to even join you in making changes! Once this goal becomes more of a habit, choose a new goal to focus on!



Arden Elementary School

2018/2019