



Social Studies

Topics and ideas:

Geography and People

People in History

Kids Can Make a Difference



SOCIAL STUDIES
activity **One**



DYNAMIC GRAPHICS

Geography and People

- Use latitude and longitude to calculate the Global Address of your community (see Mathematics Activity 4, *Latitude and Longitude: How to Calculate Your Global Address*, Connect - Math, page 3-35).
- Select a native plant from the Plantwatch species, and list all the provinces/states where it is found, using the provided plant distribution maps. From which areas has flowering been reported? (See “Archives” on web page)
- Locate other Plantwatch classes on a large map.
- Make an outline map for the above use.

Make an overhead transparency of the map of your students’ choice. Project the map onto a large sheet of paper. Have the students trace the outline of the map and any other desired features onto the paper.

- Interpret the geographical features which could affect the flowering dates. For example, mountains and higher altitudes are cooler and, thus, flowering is later in these areas. Large lakes warm slowly in spring and keep local areas cool, leading to later flowering. Large towns produce a “heat island” effect in which the sun’s heat absorbed by roofs, asphalt roads and concrete sidewalks, and the furnace heat or air conditioning exhaust from buildings, produce an environment warmer than the surrounding countryside.



SOCIAL STUDIES

activity **two**



COURTESY OF WATERTON NATIONAL PARK

People in History

Concepts and skills developed through Plantwatch:

1. First Nations People made extensive use of native plants. Plants supplied these people with food, fuel, fiber, clothing, shelter, utensils, transportation and medicine. First Nations People knew a lot about the plants in their environment. They knew which plants were safe to eat and which were toxic, what part of a plant could be used as medicine, and what part could be used as food. They crushed plant parts and made dyes to decorate personal articles. Seeds were sewn onto clothes or made into necklaces, and perfumes and oils were made from plants.

Have students research plants that were or are important to the First Nations People.
2. Early settlers made use of native plants. Many settlers became “root and herb doctors” who used Indian remedies to cure ailments. They wrote out their medicine mixes in recipe books and passed them on to their children and grandchildren. Settlers also used many native plants as food sources, such as saskatoon berries. The berries were collected and made into jams, pies, and other foods, or were eaten straight from the bushes.
3. Native plants are still used today by people. Saskatoon berries are used in a variety of recipes. The wood from poplar trees is now being used by forestry companies to make pulp, waferboard and chopsticks. See the plant descriptions for more ways in which they are used.



SOCIAL STUDIES
activity **three**



DYNAMIC GRAPHICS

Kids can make a Difference

Concepts and skills developed through Plantwatch:

If you are using the Plantwatch program in conjunction with a study of Climate Change (see Science Activity 3, *Reading About Climate Change*, Connect - Science, page 3-9), provide students with information about government policies that will help control the level of emissions of the greenhouse gases that are contributing to climate change. Have the students write to environmental groups and their Members of Parliament for background information on government commitments and the record of government action (or inaction)

on climate change.

In Canada, the Sierra Club of Canada or the Pembina Institute can provide information on CANet, the Canadian Climate Action Network, a group of environmental organizations concerned about global climate change. CANet has published a short brochure entitled *A Climate Change Action Primer*. The Sierra Club of Canada has also produced a series of information sheets called the *Climate Change Informer*. You may write and ask for copies of these and other fact sheets.

Addresses:

Sierra Club of Canada
412-1 Nicholas Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1N 7B7
Phone: (613) 241-4611
E-mail: sierra@web.net
Website: <http://www.sierraclub.org/canada/>

Pembina Institute
Box 7558
Drayton Valley, Alberta T7A 1S7
Website: www.pembina.org

No postage is required on letters that are sent to a Member of Parliament (including the Prime Minister):

Hon. (add name of your MP here)
Member of Parliament
House of Commons,
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6



Language Arts

Topics and ideas:

Descriptions

Celebrating Spring

Plantwatch Crossword Puzzle