

Keeji Quest



Name

Teacher's name

School

A note from Mayor Hoot

Dear friend,

Having a safe and healthy home is very important for all of us.

As the mayor of Kejimikujik (or Keji, for short), I help to keep my community safe. When your class comes to visit me in a few weeks, you'll be helping me with my NeighbourhooT Watch program.

This program allows me to keep an eye on my community and its residents. By recording my observations each fall, over time I will be able to detect changes happening in Keji's forests.

Having your class help me with this work will make my job easier, and will certainly make it more fun!

Thank you again for your interest in Keji. I look forward to seeing you again soon.

Yours truly,

Mayor Hoot

ps. To learn more about what's going on in my community, check out www.friendsofkeji.ns.ca/kejiquiest. This website is hosted by the Friends of Keji Cooperating Association.

How to use this workbook



This workbook is full of activities and information that will guide you through each of the stages of your Keji Quest adventure.

As you flip through the pages of this workbook, you'll notice a symbol at the top of each page. Read on to learn what these images mean.



You will do these activities **before** coming to Keji to help you prepare for your visit.



These activities will be done **at Keji**, when your class comes to see Mayor Hoot.



These activities are for **after** your Keji visit, once you are back at school.



About my community

Now that you've heard about Mayor Hoot's community, it's your turn! Take a few minutes to think about the town where you live and see if you can answer the following questions.

What is the name of my community?

Who are my neighbours?

Where does my food come from?

Where does my water come from?

Where does my power come from?

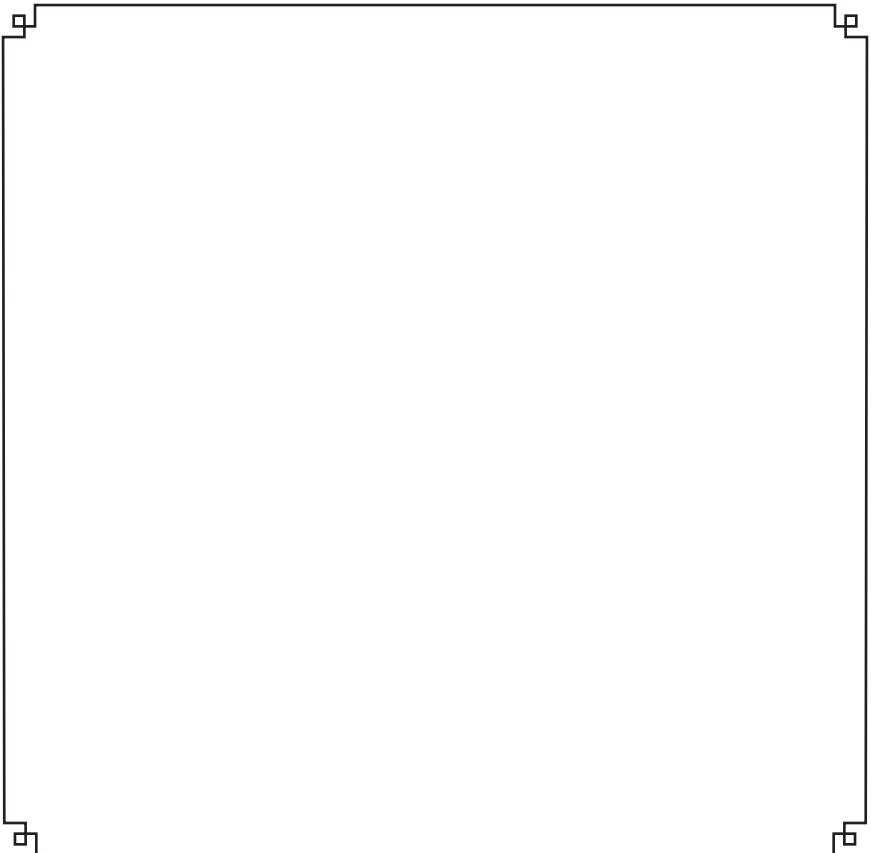
Where does my garbage go?

There's no place like home

The place in nature where a plant or animal lives is called its habitat. Can you remember the four elements of habitat?

	+		+		+	
--	---	--	---	--	---	--

What about your own habitat? Thinking back to your answers on page 4, draw a picture of yourself in your habitat.





Blast from the past

Forests are ancient places. The community that you will explore in Keji has been living and growing for many generations.

What's really exciting is that Keji's forests will continue to survive for years to come. This means that people like you can keep on visiting these special places.

Imagine if you could leave a message for these future visitors. Well, you can!

Your class is going to work together to develop a Time Capsule that will be discovered by future visitors to Keji. This Time Capsule will give them a glimpse of the year, as seen through your eyes.

The first step in this activity is to create your own Time Capsule. Then, with your teacher's help, your class will complete the "Blast from the Past" sheet. This will be the one read by students in years to come. Let's get started!



My time capsule



Date of my visit to Keji:

Name of my school:

Favourite song:

Hottest new game or toy:

Best show on television:

Coolest clothes for this year:

Best movie of the year:



Leaf Watch

Fall is the perfect time to sit back and watch nature as the forests around you prepare for the coming winter. Through this activity, you and your classmates will become "Leaf Watchers". With the help of your teacher, you will track the changing colours in a forest close to your school.

Detecting changes in nature requires keen observation skills. This activity will help you to prepare for Mayor Hoot's Neighbourhood Watch program.

One key way to identify trees is by the shape of their leaves. In the autumn, leaf colour can also be a good clue.

How well can you identify fall leaves? Sharpen your skills by completing the activity on the next page. The Leaf Watch brochure can help you if you get stuck.



*For more information on Leaf Watch,
check out www.NovaScotia.com/leaf*

Fall colours

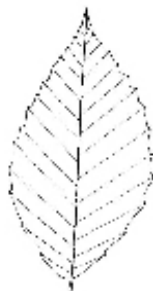


These leaves need a bit of help getting ready for fall. First, draw a line to match each species name with the leaf shape. Then, colour each leaf the right colour.

American Beech



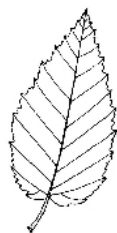
Yellow Birch



Red Maple



Red Oak



Large-toothed Aspen





Kejinkujik here we come!

Hooray, the big day is almost here! Soon you will be off to Keji to visit Mayor Hoot.

You'll be spending the day outside, so be sure to dress warmly. "The Keji Checklist" will help you prepare for your adventure. Your teacher will hand out this activity.

What to do

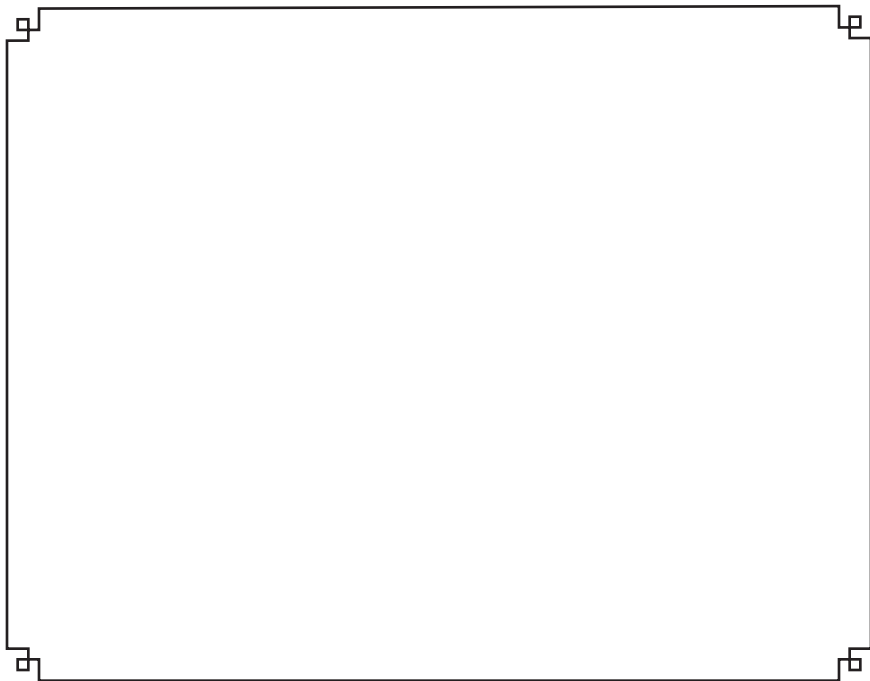
1. Look carefully at how the two students are dressed for their trip to Keji. Take note of how they have prepared themselves for chilly or rainy weather.
2. Now, turn this page over and look at all of the many items you could wear or bring to Keji. But which ones will you need?
3. As a class, check the weather forecast for the day of your trip. Based on the weather report, circle the items that you think you will need to wear or bring to Keji.



Home sweet home



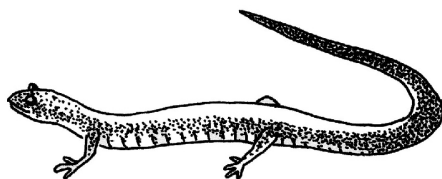
Thanks for helping Keji's residents find suitable habitat. Choose one of the creatures we discussed and draw it in its habitat, labelling each of the four elements.



What would happen to this animal's habitat if Sly Fox changed this forest ? _____



Neighbourhood Watch: Searching for salamanders
















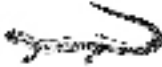
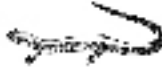
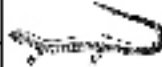
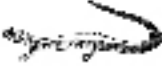
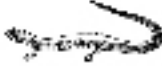

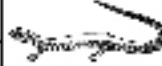
Board #	# of salamanders present	Type of salamanders	Other findings
1			
2			
3			
4			

Salamander stack-up



A graph is another way to show your results. In this activity, you are going to colour in one picture for each salamander that you found.

Start at Board # 1. Looking up that column, you will see five salamanders. Check your results for that board, and shade in the number of salamanders that you actually found. Do the same thing for Boards 2, 3, and 4.

			
			
			
			
			
Board #1	Board #2	Board #3	Board #4



The forest cycle

The forests of Keji are always changing as they cycle through the different stages of life.

Parent trees release **seeds**, some of which sprout to begin their lives as **seedlings**. What are the three things that seedlings need in order to grow bigger and stronger?

	+		+	
--	---	--	---	--

As these young trees grow, they face many dangers. Can you name a few? _____

Trees that survive these challenges become **saplings** (teenagers), some of which will later grow into **mature trees** (adults). Only a lucky few will live for more than 80 or 100 years to become **Wise Old Trees**.

Dead trees are a part of forest life, providing homes and food for other creatures.

Decomposers such as fungi, soil insects, earthworms, and bacteria return the nutrients of dead trees to the soil. These nutrients then help other trees grow, and the cycle of life continues.

The life of a forest



Using the following keywords, draw and label a picture of the forest cycle.

- seed
- seedling

- sapling
- mature tree

- Wise Old Tree
- dead tree





My life as a tree

Imagine you are a Wise Old Tree living in the forests of Keji. Looking back over your long life, write a story about some of your many experiences.

[illegible]

Neighbourhood Watch: Burying a time capsule



It is now time to leave your time capsule for the students visiting Keji in future years.

Over the next twelve months, fungi and soil creatures (such as insects, earthworms, and bacteria) will begin to break down this piece of wood.

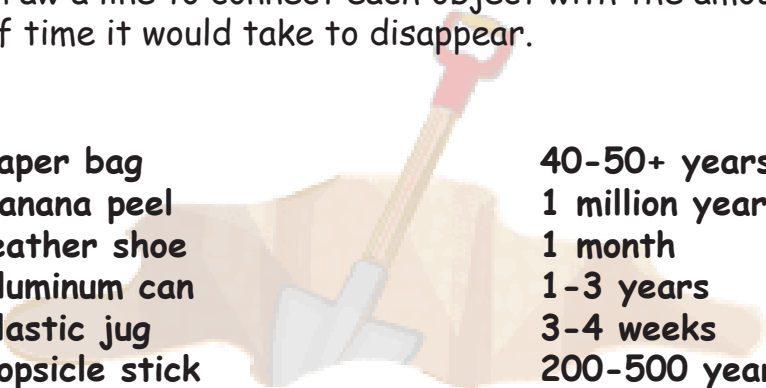
As you dig down into the earth, you can see that the soil has distinct layers. We will leave our time capsule in the soil layer where decomposition takes place. Next fall, other students will unearth this treasure to see what remains.

What do **you** think will be left of the piece of wood a year from now?

See if you can guess how long it would take for each of the following objects to break down in nature. Draw a line to connect each object with the amount of time it would take to disappear.

paper bag
banana peel
leather shoe
aluminum can
plastic jug
popsicle stick

40-50+ years
1 million years
1 month
1-3 years
3-4 weeks
200-500 years

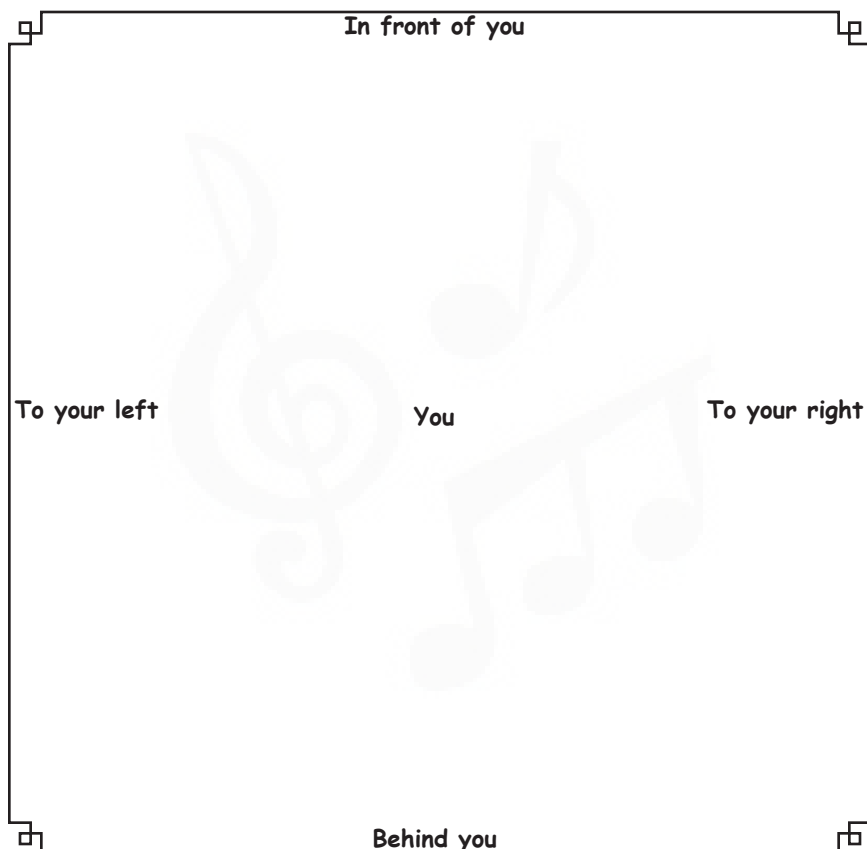




Nature's symphony

A keen sense of hearing can be really important for surviving in the forest. Sharp ears not only help animals find food, but can also save them from becoming somebody else's lunch!

Take some time to test your own ears as you sit quietly and listen to the sounds of the forest. In the space below, try to map out where these sounds are coming from.



Following a food chain

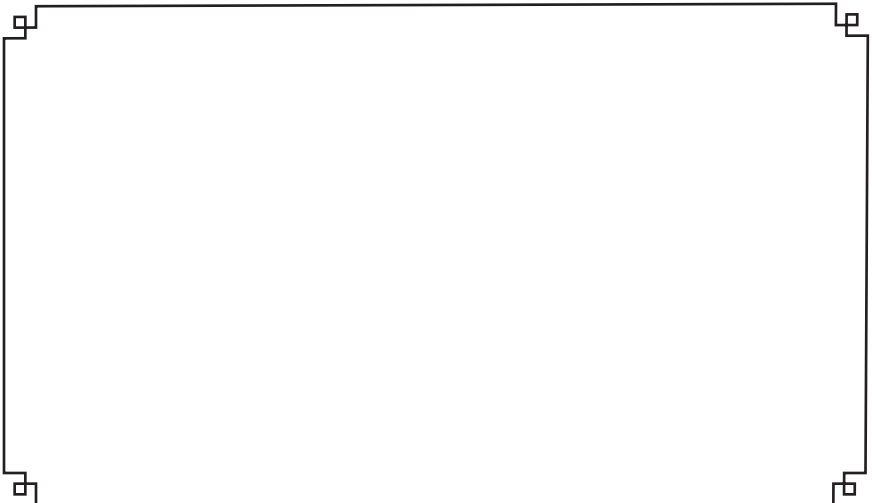


Every food chain begins with the Sun. Green plants capture sunlight energy and turn it into food. Because they are able to produce food, green plants are called **producers**.

Consumers are the next link in the food chain. This group includes any creature that feeds on a plant or another animal. A food chain can have more than one consumer.

Decomposers are the final link in the food chain. Mushrooms, earthworms, soil insects, and bacteria are all examples of decomposers. This group breaks down anything that was once living and returns the nutrients to the soil.

Draw and label a food chain at Keji.

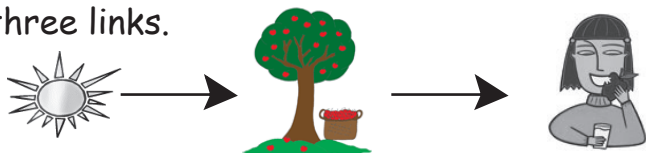




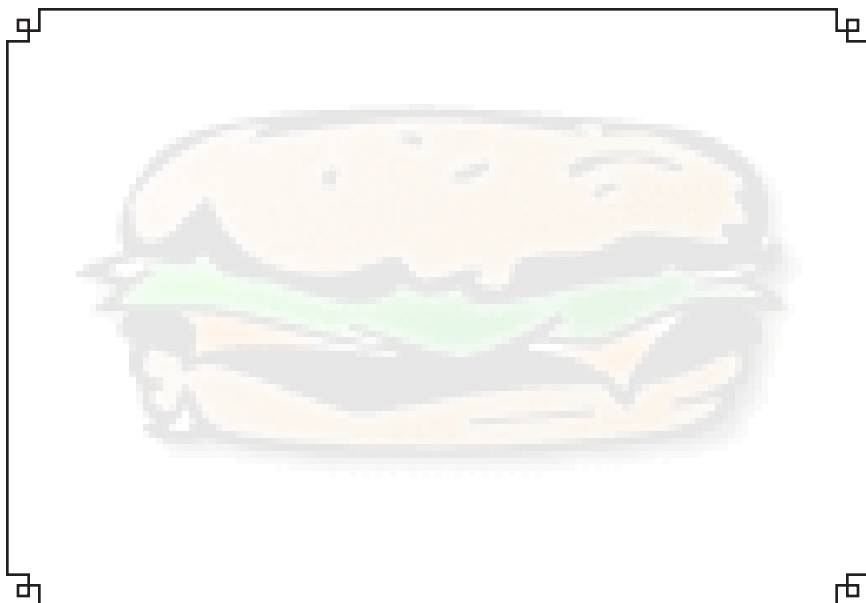
My link in the chain

Just like the forest creatures, you are also a part of many food chains. Each of these food chains start at the Sun, but the number of links in the chain varies.

For example, the food chain is very short when you eat an apple. As plants, apple trees are able to capture the Sun's energy. So this food chain has only three links.



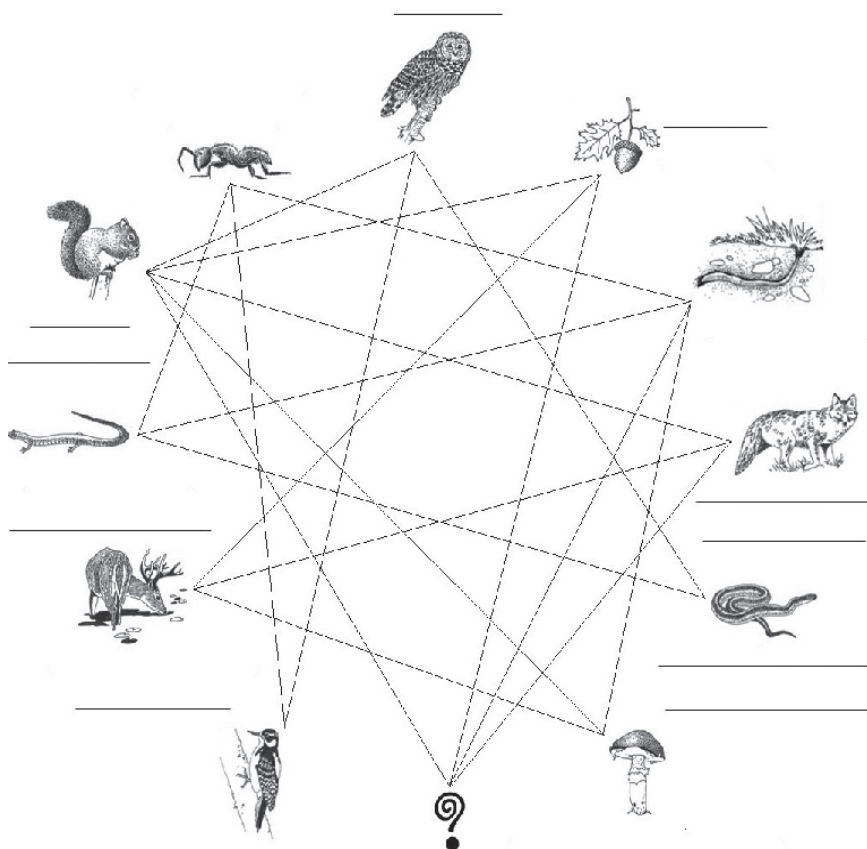
But what about if you eat a hamburger? In the space below, draw and label the links in the food chain that happen before a hamburger makes it to your plate.



Keji connections



A food web is a series of food chains all connected together. Fill in the blanks to complete the Keji food web.





The Keji Election Ballot

Mark an "x" for the candidate you want to elect for the Keji election.

Hoot the Barred Owl

☐

Sly Fox

☐

Give three reasons for your choice:

1.

2.

3.

Eye spy...



How many of the following things can you spot during your travels through Keji? Check off each item that you find.

- ☐ Mushroom
- ☐ Red squirrel
- ☐ Woodpecker holes
- ☐ White-tailed Deer
- ☐ Animal scat (poop!)
- ☐ Bird
- ☐ Acorn
- ☐ A lake or river
- ☐ Mossy rock
- ☐ Spider web
- ☐ Maple leaf
- ☐ Wise Old Tree

i'm a poet, and i know it!

Thinking about all of the Keji residents who were included in the food web, chose one to be the subject of your poem.

Write this resident's name vertically in the left-hand column, so that one letter is on each line. Then, use each of these letters to begin a line of your poem.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
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_____	_____
_____	_____

Looking back



Now that your visit to Keji has come and gone, take a moment to think about your adventures and write down some of your memories.

Choose one of the following phrases as your first line. Finish the sentence, and then make your memory into a story by adding more details.

Use the next page of your workbook for this activity.

"Something I will always remember about my trip to Keji is...."

"Some of the neat things I learned about Keji's residents were...."

"The funniest thing that happened during my visit to Keji was..."

"The best thing about helping with the Neighbourhood Watch program was..."



Memories last a lifetime

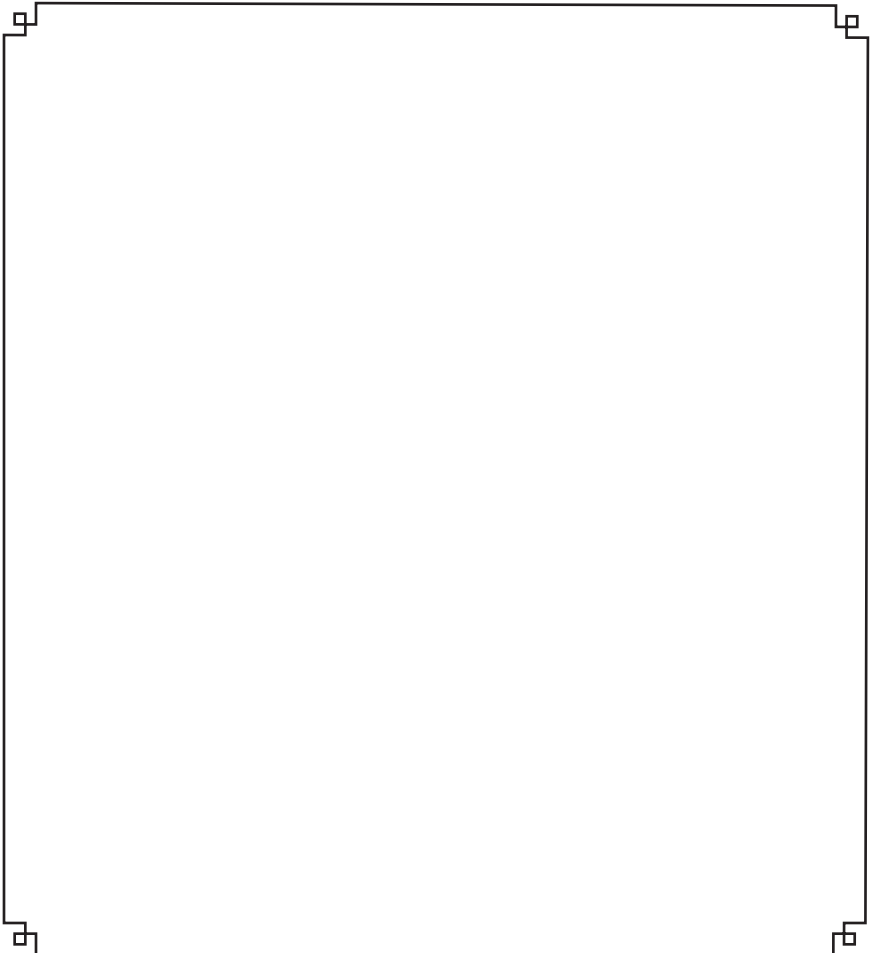


Habitat sweet habitat



Turning back to page 5, take a look at the picture you drew of yourself in your habitat. Has your understanding of habitat changed since then?

Using what you have learned through your adventures with Mayor Hoot, draw a new picture that shows what your habitat means to you.





ice Watch



Here's a chance to put your Neighbourhood Watch skills to the test. Just like the colourful leaves of fall, cooler temperatures are a sure sign that winter is on its way.

Through this activity, you'll track the freezing and thawing of winter ice as you become a part of a Canada-wide Neighbourhood Watch program.

What to do

1. As a class, you'll chose a location for winter "freeze up" and spring "break up" on a nearby lake, river, or bay.
2. Keeping a close watch on the water through the winter, you'll record two dates: when it freezes over completely and when the ice totally disappears.
3. Your class will then send in your results either through either the mail or over the internet.

Thanks to volunteers like you, over time, this information will help scientists understand how our climate is changing.

Mayor Hoot would be proud to know that you are using your Neighbourhood Watch skills for such an important program!