

Unit I Forest and Tundra Ecology

Role of Fire



Unit I: Forest and Tundra Ecology Table of Content

Background Important information for teachers	Page 1
Reading the Alaska Environment (K-12) In an outdoor activity, students closely observe their environment	14
Material Handouts *Reading the Alaska Environment *Boreal Forest Observations *Tundra Observations *Don't Tear Me Apart or Crush My Home (Page 22)	
Identifying Objects (3-8) Students learn about dichotomous keys and how they are used to identify plants	24
Material Handouts *Plant Key - Summer *Plant Key - Winter	
Blind Walk (K-12) In an outdoor activity, students explore the local ecosystem using only their sense of touch and smell	28
Material Handouts *Blind Walk Student Worksheet *Don't Tear Me Apart or Crush My Home (Page 22)	
Transect Study (6-12) Students set up transects near the school to systematically study the local ecosystem. Material Handouts *Transect Study Field Worksheet *Don't Tear Me Apart or Crush My Home (Page 22)	33

Making the Forest and Tundra Wildlife Connection (5-12) Students participate in an active game to form food chains of the boreal forest			
Material Handouts *Alaska Ecology Cards (Page 44)			
Critter Search (K-12) Students look for evidence of small animals and their tracks in an outdoor setting	80		
Material Handouts *Critter Search Treasure Hunt Worksheet			
The Succession Race (5-12) Students play an active game in which they pretend they are plants. As the plants progress through boreal forest succession they encounter conditions which affect them	83		
Material Handouts *Succession Cards *Succession of the Boreal Forest After Fire			
Boreal Forest Succession (K-12) Students observe and record the different stages of forest succession around their school grounds, and illustrate succession in the boreal forest by making field notebooks and a mural	92		
Material Handouts *Succession of the Boreal Forest After Fire			
Living on the Edge (5-8) Students play a game to create a vegetation mosaic and discuss their influence on wildlife diversity			
Material Handouts *Living on the Edge Forest Graph Paper *Living on the Edge Key *Forest Mosaic of Yukon Flats *Alaska Ecology Cards (Page 44)			