

# Science in Action<sup>®</sup> Newsletter

Winter Edition

## SIA Refresher...

Save yourself some time and get moving with SIA!

As you plan for the rest of your school year, don't forget to make use of all the SIA goodies at your school. Now's the time to **check out that kit again** and see which of the ready-to-use activities you might like to try.



### Here's the lowdown on the SIA program to refresh your memory:

- 1) **Two hours of support time** is available per class from your facilitator.
- 2) **Complete any 6 activities** from your tracking tool.
- 3) **Submit your tracking tool** to the WildBC office.



## Check out our new website!

Visit [www.wildbc.org](http://www.wildbc.org) to get more information about WildBC and to access more **free online resources**. We also have many SIA resources up on this site for easy downloading.

*Remember: when you complete 6 SIA activities you can redeem for a FREE FIELDTRIP!*

### Then... choose from two options:

#### (A) Outdoor fieldtrip

Up to \$200/class reimbursement. Must be outdoors & have an element of physical activity. School and/or School district must invoice for reimbursement (with receipts). Transportation/program cost at site applicable.

**(B) Additional Facilitator Support.** Up to 5 additional facilitator hours. May be used toward a physically active action project or a facilitator led outdoor field trip.

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# Tips on Environmental Education in the Rain and Snow

**Make Sit-upons!** *A sit-upon is an insulated and waterproof pad, often homemade, used to protect the user's backside from the cold and damp while "sitting upon" the ground!*

Making sit-upons are a great class activity before going outside. A simple sit-upon can be constructed by taking several layers of newspaper, folding to the appropriate size and inserting them into a plastic "kitchen catcher"-type bag. Squeeze out any air, fold the bag snugly around the newspaper, and use duct tape or packing tape to hold it all together. Add your name with a permanent marker!

Other tips:

**Impromptu raincoats:** keep a few garbage bags handy when outside during the wet season – students without raincoats can wear these for rain protection!

**Keep moving:** when first outside, play a physical game so students will get warm. The "Animal Charades" relay from your SIA kit is a great active and fun game.



*"As a teacher, I am thankful for being presented with instant lessons."*  
Teacher, Smithers

## What teachers are saying about SIA

*"The students really loved the activities, and most of them remembered the messages as well. So they are getting exercise, playing games outside and learning concepts – it doesn't get better than that!"* Teacher

## 5 Good Reasons to contact your Facilitator



They can help you select and prepare activities to do with your class.



They can help you adapt older grade activities for use with younger grades.



They know how to re-pack the Incredible Journey Kit (those who selected the Water Theme will appreciate this).



They know of great field trip destinations in your region.



They are passionate about active, outdoor science learning just like you!

# Teacher Tips from the field

**Silent Draw Activity** *After taking a class for a walk in the forest, a teacher from Surrey used this activity to illustrate the concept of an ecosystem.*

She would walk in front of the class after they were seated and silently start drawing something she saw on her walk. Without saying anything or using any hand signals she would keep drawing, either adding detail to a single item such as a tree, or adding various components of the ecosystem (depending on the students' level) until everyone was quiet and watching.

Then she would silently turn and hand the chalk to a student, and then another and another. She would keep passing the chalk until every desired detail was recorded.

If the students' were old enough she would then go back to the board and draw a connection between two pictures in the drawing i.e. bird to a tree. Still silently, she would again hand the chalk to a one student, then another and another, until not only everyone had a turn, but until every last hand was satisfied and all the perceived connections were recorded.



**Take a SIA Moment** at staff meetings to report on activities you've tried.

## Teaching Buddies

Sharing can be more fun than doing it alone. Why not share the load with another classroom teacher? You could each prepare 3 activities listed on your Tracking Sheet, then teach them to each other's classes.

## Theme Day at your School

Get the whole school participating in a Theme Day such as "Wonderful Water Wednesday" at your school. Have children participate in a range of Science in Action activities throughout the day.

## Learning Buddies

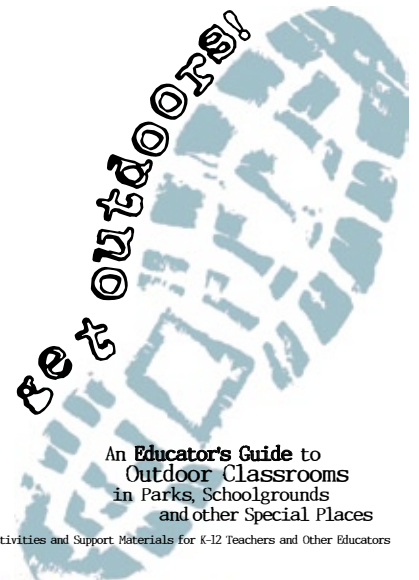
Some teachers have told us they've had great success pairing older grades with younger ones for activities such as the Incredible Journey for the Water Theme. This can work especially well in adapting activities written for older grades.

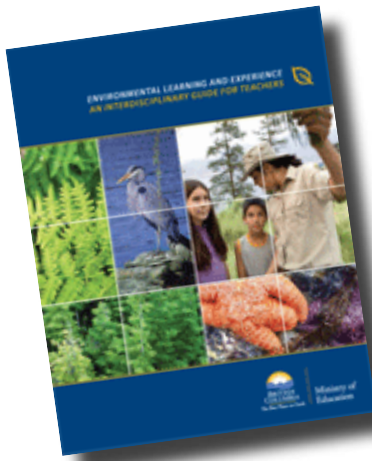
## get outdoors!

### The **Latest WildBC Resource & Workshop!**

WildBC is pleased to announce its newest publication **"Get Outdoors! An Educator's Guide to Outdoor Classrooms in Parks, Schoolgrounds and other Special Places"**.

This guide is a fantastic tool for any teacher who is interested in taking their classroom outdoors. Topics covered include: addressing the barriers to getting outdoors, outdoor group management tips, fieldtrip checklists, and a wide range of easy-to-use outdoor activities, ideas and worksheets. Stay tuned for upcoming workshops on this new resource!





## Support for SIA- Ministry Resource

**Environmental Learning and Experience: An Interdisciplinary Guide for Teachers** (2007) builds on an earlier Ministry of Education document entitled *Environmental Concepts in the Classroom: A Guide for Teachers*, first published in 1995. This is the latest Ministry document created to assist BC teachers to integrate environmental concepts into teaching and learning. Designed as a framework to guide teachers in their education planning, the guide also aims to support the implementation of many of the Integrated Resource Packages (IRP's) and will be complemented by web resources to assist environmental learning in diverse subjects like science, social studies and language arts. It is your guide to interdisciplinary practice — using the environment as an organizing theme.

[www.bced.gov.bc.ca/environment\\_ed/envirint.html](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/environment_ed/envirint.html)



**WIN!** a copy of **Last Child in the Woods** by Richard Louv

Send in an email to [wild@gov.bc.ca](mailto:wild@gov.bc.ca) and tell us how you're using the Science In Action materials. A short story, feedback or experience is all we need to hear and you're entered into a draw for your own copy of this insightful and moving book about the importance of nature for children. Draw June 15.



### Contact WildBC

Phone 250-356-7111  
Toll free 1-800-387-9853  
Email: [wild@gov.bc.ca](mailto:wild@gov.bc.ca)  
[www.wildbc.org](http://www.wildbc.org)

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Ministry of Environment

