

# Lessons in a Backpack with Georgian Bay Biosphere

## Project Background

The Georgian Bay Biosphere (GBB), a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, runs nature-oriented programs for the public. They create 'lessons' in a backpack – free education programs accessible to local teachers in Parry Sound. These lessons are used to facilitate heightened environmental consciousness in the community and an appreciation towards the bay.



## Purpose

To create a lesson in a backpack for Eighth Grade students in Parry Sound concerning the health of Georgian Bay with an explicit focus on climate change, which is not covered by the curriculum at this point in their education.



## Research

The GBB publishes extensive research dubbed the 'State of the Bay Report' every 5 years, containing paramount information relating to every aspect of the health of Georgian Bay, including species health, wetland conditions and long-term data regarding climate change, invasive species and other human activities. These documents served as the basis for the vast majority of research.



## Developments

An introductory lesson on climate change is being developed in accordance with Ontario curriculum guidelines, necessitating a focus on water health. It is complete with easy-to-understand presentation slides, outdoor activities, games, worksheets and more. It has already been piloted in-class and is pending finalization after a final round of edits.

## Lesson Outline

The lesson starts with a presentation which covers the fundamentals of climate change, including the greenhouse effect, feedback loops and human involvement. It also covers the global impacts of climate change before a shift towards local impacts in Georgian Bay. Students are frequently asked questions in breakout groups and receive booklets to read with an according worksheet to fill out. Other activities include a Kahoot to test their knowledge, an outdoor worksheet to spot human activity to apply their knowledge, as well as extension activities such as games including climate change dodgeball for teachers to use upon discretion.

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