



# Intro to Place-Based Education

## Place-based Education involves...

- developing natural/cultural knowledge and experience of a place
- building a connection to a place
- creating a sense of wonder for a place (leads to a desire to know more and creates a sense of empathy for a place)
- instilling a sense of stewardship for a place (a desire to care for it and its inhabitants)

## Place...

- is an intersection of nature and culture
- is both the **natural** and the **built** environment
- includes all of its inhabitants (humans, animals, insects, plants, etc.)
- connects to its stories, myths, legends, history, artworks, music (anything that characterizes a place and gives it meaning)

## Strategies for Place-based Learning

- regular and first hand contact with the place
- identifying memories and stories of the place (oral, written and visual history)
- highlighting personal connections to the place
- integrating a variety of subject areas to investigate the place (= sense of place)
- developing knowledge of ecological principles that affect the place (=ecosystems thinking)
- modeling positive interactions with the place  
(= human activity)

## TDSB Principles for Environmental Education

*Sense of Place* - understanding and appreciating our environments = *relationships*

*Human Activity* - connecting our actions to local and global environments = *impacts*

*Ecosystems Thinking* - learning about the interacting systems that sustain all life = *dependence*

## Teachers' Resources

- Cornell, Joseph. *Sharing Nature With Children*. Dawn Pubns; 1998, ISBN: 1883220734.
- Lachecki, M. *Teaching Kids to love the Earth: Sharing a Sense of Wonder through 186 Outdoor Activities*. University of Minnesota Press, 1991.
- Grant, Tim and Gail Littlejohn. Eds. *Teaching Green – The Middle Years: Hands-on Learning in Grades 6-8*. Green Teacher, 2004.
- Grant, Tim and Gail Littlejohn. Eds. *Teaching Green - The Elementary Years: Hands-on Learning in Grades K-5*. Green Teacher, 2005.
- Grant, Tim and Gail Littlejohn. Eds. *Greening School Grounds: Creating Habitats for Learning*. New Society Publishers and Green Teacher, 2001.
- Milord, Susan. *The Kids' Nature Book : 365 Indoor/Outdoor Activities and Experiences*. Williamson Publishing; 1996, ISBN: 1885593074
- Sanger, M. (1997). Sense of place in education. *Journal of environmental education*, 29(1), 4-8.
- Smith, G. (2002). Place-based education: Learning to be where we are. *Phi delta kappan*, 83, 584-594.
- Sobel, D. *Place-based education: Connecting classrooms and communities*. Great Barrington, MA: The Orion Society, 2004.
- Sobel, D. *Mapmaking with Children: Sense of Place Education in the Elementary Years*. Heinemann, 1991.

## Children's Books on Place

- The Lorax*. Dr. Seuss, Random House, 1971.
- Some Day a Tree*. Eve Bunting, Clarion Books, 1996. ISBN: 0395764785
- In My World*. Lois Ehlert, Voyager Books, 2006. ISBN: 0152054294
- Farewell to Shady Glade*. Bill Peet, Houghton Mifflin, 1966. ISBN: 0395189756
- Listen to the City*. Rachel Isadora, Putnam Juvenile, 2000. ISBN: 0399230475
- Round Trip*. Ann Jonas, Live Oak Media, 1992. ISBN: 0874992699
- The Water Hole*. Graham Base, Puffin USA, 2004. ISBN: 0142401978

## Websites

Promise of Place

<http://www.promiseofplace.org/>

Place-based Education Wiki

[http://wiki.bssd.org/index.php/Place\\_Based\\_Education](http://wiki.bssd.org/index.php/Place_Based_Education)

Benefits of Place-based Education (PEEC Report)

[http://www.promiseofplace.org/documents/Benefits\\_of\\_PBE-PEEC\\_2007\\_web.pdf](http://www.promiseofplace.org/documents/Benefits_of_PBE-PEEC_2007_web.pdf)