

Toronto Island SUP Willow Walk – Grade 3 and 4

Social and Nature Studies with Julian Ganton and Tanya Golden

Topics

1. Canadian communities and our roles & responsibilities within them.
2. Early Canada and Toronto in the 1800s.
3. Life and work in Toronto and the importance of the island.

Concepts

1. Significance – What elements make strong communities? What is the importance of having a community building and keeping green space around communities? What was the significance of the island in early Toronto? What plants and animals are significant to humans and other living things?
2. Cause and Consequence – What caused the flood of 2017 and what did this cause in the natural world and community? What is our impact on the natural world? What were the reasons and consequences of choosing this location for Toronto?
3. Continuity and Change – What was it like living in Canada in the early 1800s? How has life changed? What was life on the island like? How has the island changed? How does the natural world change over the seasons?
4. Patterns and Trends – What makes up a park? What is different from this park to a park you see in the city or outside the city? Where is Toronto on a map? The island? What time of year do people visit the island? What marks the changing of the seasons?
5. Interrelationships – How do our roles in our communities relate to our natural world and vice versa? What did early settlers learn from the native inhabitants about life here? Why should invasive species be talked about and controlled at an international level?
6. Perspective – How does an understanding of unique individuals and groups help us appreciate the diversity in our community? How might more tourism hurt and help a community? A city?

Itinerary

10:30 am

Meet group off of the ferry at Wards Island Dock and begin our introduction talk. We look back at the city and talk about the city: past and present.

Talk: What significance does the island have in the city's history? What did it look like in the 1800s? Why was this site chosen for a city and what impact does the island have in the bigger picture? Tourism on the island. How does tourism affect a place?



10:45 am

Wards Island neighborhood walk starting at Willow Square. This is where the community meets. Here we touch on how to build community and its importance within our society. There are many symbols, art and important plants within this square. Let's explore them!

Walk and talk: What are our traditions and cultural symbols? What ties our community together? What are some of your responsibilities in your family?

11:00 am

The walk is continued through the neighborhood and into the nearby Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI), Wards Meadow and Wards Beach area. Along the way, we will be identifying certain plants, trees and other objects that we may return to later for a scavenger hunt.

Talk and touch: Take a look at some of the trees and notice that some are not living. There was a flood in 2017 which killed some of the trees and created habitat for other plants and animals. What was the greater impact of the flood on flora, fauna, people? Seasons and our relationship to them. Important plants for humans and animals.

11:30 am

Games: When we reach Wards Beach, we will start engaging the children in large group games which are not only fun but teach about teamwork and the natural world.

We then explain the rules for our last game, the scavenger hunt, which retraces the steps of some of the places we've been and tests the recalling ability of the students.

As the student groups filter back, their items are checked, discussed and they are free to investigate some of our natural artifacts which we've collected over the years.

12:30 pm

Lunch time! The children are free to find a spot on the beach and eat their packed lunches.

Following lunch, we walk your group back to the ferry docks and answer any questions you may have.

