

Toronto Island SUP Willow Walk – Grade 5 and 6

Social and Nature Studies with Julian Ganton and Tanya Golden

Topics

1. Canadian communities and our roles & responsibilities within them.
2. First Nations and Europeans in early Canada.
3. Communities in Canada past and present.
4. The impact of Toronto in the global community. Tourism on the island and Toronto.

Concepts

1. Significance – Why is community important and what elements make strong communities? Why is it important to keep green space in big cities, Toronto? What was the significance of the island in early Toronto? What is the significance of tourism in Toronto and on the island?
2. Cause and Consequence – What caused the flood of 2017 and what did this cause in the natural world and community? How are they preventing this from happening again? What is our impact on the natural world? How can we minimize our footprint?
3. Continuity and Change – What was Toronto like in the past and what do you think it will look like in the future? How has life in the city changed? What was life on the island like? How has the island changed?
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? What about national parks? Where is Toronto on a map? The island? Where are you on a map? 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? What are the native plants and animals here and why are invasive species important to monitor?
6. Perspective – How might more tourism hurt and help a community? A city? There are lots of voices and perspectives in this city. Whose voices should be heard if there are developments are planned here? How does that process look?

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, present and future.

Talk: What significance does the island have in the city's history? Why was this site chosen for a city and what impact does the island have in the bigger picture? Let's draw or talk about the city as we'd like to see it in the future. Tourism on the island. How does tourism affect a place?

Mapping: Let's take a look at some maps. Where is Canada, Toronto, Toronto Island, you?



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? Can you think of any other communities? What makes them strong? What are the people like? What is important about green spaces in the city?

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? What are some important plants for animals and people, natives, settlers?

How can we be responsible citizens and reduce our footprint on the natural world? How can we live in harmony?

Mapping: Let's take a look at our maps along the way and see if we can point out the street names and remember landmarks.

11:30 am

Games: When we reach Wards Beach, we will start engaging the children in large, developmentally appropriate 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.

