

Discover the natural world around you!

Our planet is home to some amazing animals and natural wonders. From the Amazon to the Sahara, from the Pacific Ocean to the Himalayas, you can find cool creatures everywhere you look. But you don't have to travel halfway around the world to get a glimpse of some of these amazing animals. You can find lots right here in Canada!

It's time to become an Outdoor Explorer and discover the natural world around you.



For this Mission you must:

- ☐ Choose an outdoor space to explore with your family! Use the **Earth Rangers Parks Locator** to find one of Canada's protected areas or a local park or greenspace near you.
- ☐ Download the **Nature BioKit** or **Urban BioKit** and use it to start your outdoor adventure.
- ☐ Share your adventures with friends and family by emailing or printing the downloadable Outdoor Explorer postcard and spread the word about the importance of conservation efforts in Canada.
- ☐ Tell Earth Rangers about your adventures by submitting stories and photos at the end of your Mission at earthrangers.com/outdoor-explorer



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Let the BioKit be your guide!

When you have the right equipment, you're ready for any adventure! Before you head out with your family, remember to grab the things you might need, like a pencil, magnifying glass, binoculars, camera, watch, and a BioKit!



Environment Canada's BioKit will take you and your family on an eco-journey you'll never forget! You'll be brought right down to the ground to inspect animal tracks and way up in the sky to examine the clouds. You'll learn about different plants and animals that make Canada awesome! With the BioKit by your side, every trip outside will become an adventure waiting to happen.



NATURE



DOWNLOAD THIS BIOKIT

Nature BioKit

Use this kit if you are taking your Outdoor Explorer Mission to a protected area or an outdoor space outside of a city or town.

URBAN



DOWNLOAD THIS BIOKIT

Urban BioKit

Use this kit if you are taking your Outdoor Explorer Mission to a neighbourhood park or outdoor space in a city or town.

Protecting Canada's Biodiversity

Did you know that Canada is home to over 140,000 species? That's a lot of creatures who call this country home. Unfortunately, many of these species are at risk due to threats like habitat loss and pollution. Wouldn't it be great if there were people taking action to protect these species' homes?

Well, there are! Governments, Aboriginal and local communities, and other organizations have come together to protect over 1 million km² of land and water in Canada. Currently, 10% of Canada's land, including bodies of fresh water, is protected and that's just the beginning. By 2020, the goal is to raise that number to 17%!



What is a Protected Area?

Protected areas are special places set aside and dedicated to conserving nature. For many of these protected areas, visitors are welcome to explore, but some protected areas are not accessible to people because the ecosystem is so fragile. Starting with Mount Royal Park in Montreal in 1876, almost 8,000 protected areas have been established in Canada, including parks, wildlife sanctuaries, marine protected areas and many others.

Types of National Protected Areas

National Protected Areas, like the ones shown on the Parks Locator, are looked after by Parks Canada, Environment Canada and Fisheries and Oceans Canada. This means it's their responsibility to take care of these areas, making sure they are safe for the wildlife that live there and the people who visit.

Check out all the different types of National Protected Areas starting on the next page.

National Wildlife Areas

- Created for wildlife research, conservation, nature exploration and to protect important areas used by migratory wildlife and species at risk
- Include areas of both land and water
- Help protect animals like snow geese, California bighorn sheep, peregrine falcon, polar bear, caribou, owls, muskoxen, and other species
- Some areas are located near cities and have special trails that are great for exploring and learning about the area.
- You can do different things in many National Wildlife Areas like birding, hiking, canoeing and picnicking!



National Parks

- Created to protect habitats, wildlife and ecosystems of Canada's important wild places
- Include areas like mountains, plains, boreal forest, tundra, lakes, glaciers and many more
- Help protect many at risk animals like the American marten, greater short-horned lizard, snapping turtle, hog-nosed snake and countless others
- You can do tons of fun activities, like camping, hiking, swimming and biking and at some parks you can even go surfing, scuba diving, whale watching or mountain climbing



Migratory Bird Sanctuaries

- Created for conservation and to protect important habitat for migrating birds spending time in Canada
- Include areas of both land and water
- Help protect animals like seabirds, ducks, geese, songbirds, shorebirds and many more
- Some of these areas are open to the public so check out the Parks Locator to find one you can visit



National Marine Conservation Areas

- Created to protect important areas of Canada's waters, including the seabed, shores and other habitats
- Include areas of the Arctic, Pacific and Atlantic Oceans and the Great Lakes
- Help protect marine animals like sea otters, belugas, walruses, octopi and many more
- You can hike along coastlines, kayak through scenic islands, watch wildlife and dive through waters filled with marine life



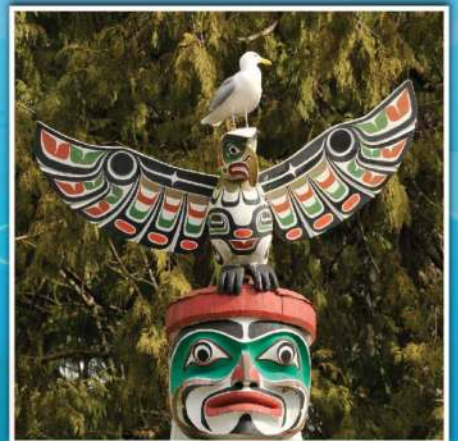
Marine Protected Areas

- Created to protect and conserve fishery resources, marine species and their habitats
- Have been established in the Pacific, Atlantic and Arctic Oceans
- Help protect animals like whales, dolphins, fish, seabirds and many others
- While some areas aren't accessible without a boat, many are open to the public, giving you a chance to see marine wildlife in their natural habitats



National Historic Sites

- Created to protect places that are historically and culturally important
- Include places like forts, canals and other spaces where historic events took place
- Help protect the wildlife that live on these sites
- They can be a great place to explore and learn about history and nature at the same time



Where can I find a protected area near me?

With so many protected areas in Canada, it's easy to find one near you! Check out the **Earth Rangers Parks Locator** where you can find some of Canada's coolest protected areas that are taken care of by Parks Canada, Environment Canada and Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

Not close to one of these protected areas? Don't worry! You can still use this map to find other green spaces, including provincial, territorial and municipal parks, to visit near you!



The more protected areas we have in Canada, the better we can look after our plants and animals, and the natural wonders that make Canada so beautiful.

See for yourself! Learn more about Canada's protected areas by visiting them. And don't forget your BioKit! You'll experience nature in a whole new way and become a real Outdoor Explorer!



Take a picture of your adventure!

You can submit your story and photos at earthrangers.com/outdoor-explorer