Pictou County Forest School - Grade 6 Lesson Plans
Life Science: Diversity of Life

Activity: Eco-Zone Bioblitz (suggested time: 90+ minutes)
Overall Curriculum Outcome: Learners will analyze diversity of life in nature and significant relationships within the natural world.
Specific Curriculum connections:
Adaptations to the environment
- How do the features of animals allow them to survive/thrive in their environment?
- How do changes in the environment affect the organisms that live there?

Ecological relationships (competition, symbiosis, predation)
- How do animals relate to one another?
- How are the relationships among animals interconnected within the environment?

Materials:
- Paper, clipboards, pencils, pencil crayons
- Nets, containers, magnifying glasses
- Ropes for bio-blitz
- Potential read aloud, Wolf Island, Ceilia Godkin

Intro/Activation:
Forest School Teetertotter of Biodiversity!!! (and/or using a smaller and decidedly less fun balance scale)
- Students ride the teetertotter as adults facilitate a discussion about the delicate balance and interrelationships in nature between all living things. E.g., "Mosquitos are really annoying BUT if they all disappeared how would other living things be affected?"

Instructions/Activities:
The students are divided into four groups and rotate to the various ecosystems, searching for living things and recording their findings using pictures and words.
- Adults help facilitate discussion and interpreting observations at each centre. E.g., "You found a Yellow-Spotted Salamander!"

Forest	Field	River	Bog
Rope, magnifying glasses	Rope, magnifying glasses	Nets, containers, magnifying glasses	Rope, magnifying glasses

Reflection/further wonderings:
What did we see in our various ecosystems?
How would this change if our whole class walked through our ecosystems? Or cut the grass? Or drove a four-wheeler through it?
How do our ecosystems differ from the gravel road where our bus is parked?