

**Pictou County Forest School - Grade 5 Pre-Visit Lesson Plans**  
**Earth and Space Science: Weather**

**Activity:** Design an Eco-House

**Overall Curriculum Outcome:** Learners will investigate how weather impacts daily life.

**Specific Curriculum connections:**

Weather conditions affect living and non-living things

- How does weather impact daily life?
- How do animals respond to weather in different seasons?

Weather-related technologies for preparing and responding to weather (umbrellas, showshoes, lightning rod, seawall)

- How do we use particular clothing or tools such as umbrellas, showshoes, lightning rod, and seawall to respond to weather conditions?
- How do we design structures to protect us from weather?

**Materials:**

- Paper
- Colouring materials

**Activity:**

**Day 1/2**

Students briefly research various animal homes found in nature, such as nests, dens and caves. Discuss how these animal homes are insulative, both in how they are made and the materials used.

What connections can we make between how these animals construct their homes and how we build and insulate our homes?

**Day 3/4/5**

Students can spend several days researching, sketching and discussing and/or presenting various styles of human houses that utilize natural building materials: straw-bale, rammed earth, cob, igloo, yurts, log-cabins etc.

For a comprehensive selection of videos illustrating these styles of houses:

<https://www.youtube.com/@ExploringAlternatives>

---

The principles learned from this project will provide a solid context and theoretical understanding for students to apply their knowledge while building passive solar shelters at PCFS and their insulated boxes back in the school setting.