

WildFiles.TV

Teachers' Guide for

You Go, Caribou!

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SERIES SYNOPSIS

WildFiles.TV is a 13-part, interactive science and nature television series for school-aged children. Each half-hour episode profiles a different animal species in a dramatic story of a young character with an animal mystery or a problem to solve. Hosts Chris and Ava, from the Wild Files research station, and real-life Canadian scientists provide information and facts about the animals throughout each episode.

Detailed files of the same 13 animals are also found in the virtual clubhouse, *WildFiles.TV* Interactive. Here children can extend their science learning from the videos and explore the wildlife files and over 100 activities including games, puzzles, quizzes and challenges. The activities are designed to be fun, appealing and accessible to a variety of learning styles with the use of brightly coloured graphics, video, animation, audio, interactive activities and text.

WildFiles.TV promotes environmental consciousness while encouraging children's active exploration, problem solving, science learning and creativity. The dramatic storyline in the videos is used to present science concepts in an entertaining, yet realistic format.

DVD CONTENTS – Caribou Episode

- 23-minute video
- Interactive animal content in text, audio, animation, cool facts, video clips and puzzles
- An original song about the animal, with lyrics
- 1 science project lesson plan
- 1 crossword puzzle with answer key
- 1 word search with answer key
- 1 quiz with answer key

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS (based on Alberta curriculum)

Science, Outdoor and Environmental Education, Social Studies, Health and Life Skills, Language Arts or Fine Arts and Information and Communication Technology.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Grade 1: Seasonal Changes

- Identify and describe examples of plant and animal changes that occur on a seasonal basis; changes in form or appearance, changes in location or changes in behavior, or in production of young.

Grade 1: Needs of Animals and Plants

- Observe, describe and compare living things.
- Classify some common local plants and animals into groups on the basis of physical characteristics; e.g., adaptations for survival such as beaks, claws, or prickles.

- Recognize that some plants and animals must adapt to extreme conditions; e.g., arctic and desert plants and animals.
- Identify examples of animals that are normally under human care (domesticated) and those that are normally independent of human care (wild).

Grade 1: Senses

- Recognize that other living things have senses and identify various ways animals use their senses; e.g., sensing danger, finding food, recognizing their own young or potential mates.

Grade 2: Hot and Cold Temperatures

- Identify materials that insulate animals from the cold; e.g., wool, fur and feathers; and identify materials that are used by humans for the same purpose.

Grade 3: Animal Life Cycles

- Classify a variety of animals, based on observable characteristics; e.g., limbs, teeth, body covering, overall shape, backbone.
- Observe and describe the growth and development of various species from a variety of groups and identify similarities and differences in their developmental sequences.
- Demonstrate awareness that parental care is characteristic of some animals and not of others, and identify examples of different forms of parental care.
- Demonstrate awareness that animals require different habitats in order to meet their basic needs of food, water, shelter and space.
- Recognize adaptations of a young animal to its environment, and identify changes in its relationship to its environment as it goes through life.
- Identify examples of environmental conditions that may threaten animal survival, and identify examples of extinct animals.
- Recognize that habitat preservation can help maintain animal populations, and identify ways that student actions can assist habitat preservation.

Grade 7: Interactions and Ecosystems

- Investigate and describe relationships between humans and their environments, and identify related issues and scientific questions such as interactions, interdependence, human impact and needs.

Grade 9: Biological Diversity

- Investigate and interpret diversity among and within species and describe how diversity contributes to species survival in terms of variation, niches, dependencies among species, species survival.
- Distinguish between and identify examples of natural and artificial selection; e.g., beak shape in birds.
- Identify impacts of human action on species survival and variation within species, and analyze related issues for personal and public decision making such as abundance of species, extinction, extirpation, role of environmental factors, and strategies for minimizing loss of species.

Grades 7-9: Outdoor and Environmental Education: Environmental Core

- Recognize natural changes in environments such as extinction or succession.

Grades 1-9: HEALTH AND LIFE SKILLS

- Relationship Choices: Understanding and Expressing Feelings
Many of the problems faced by the young characters in the *WildFiles.TV* episodes may be used to promote discussion under this general learning outcome. Problems such as resolving a dispute with a friend, feelings of sadness after a pet dies, fear of new situations, dealing with change, adapting to a new school environment or to the changes that accompany adolescence are all topics addressed in the series.

EPISODE TITLE: *You Go, Caribou*

FEATURED ANIMAL: Caribou

THEMES:

- Seasonal migration
- Predators/Protection
- Symbiotic relationships
- Species at risk/endangered species
- Career: wildlife biologist
- Moving to a new school, town, or country

SUMMARY:

Remi learns that she has something in common with caribou – just like her, they are always on the move!

Remi longs for a predictable, sedentary life. She's just got over her family's last move and has finally made some friends. Now her family is moving again and she's going to have to leave her school and her new friends behind! When she calls the research station to borrow some boxes to pack, Chris suggests they both take a ski break in the outdoors. As they head out skiing, Chris lets Remi know that North American reindeer are called 'caribou', and that they both have something in common – caribou are always on the move. Chris shares information about caribou **taxonomy, range and migration patterns, herd size** of Woodland and Peary caribou. They also discuss caribou **digestion (rumination), predators, camouflage and calving grounds**. On the ski-trail, they meet up with caribou expert Paula Bentham, who explains the **adaptations, reproduction and seasonal diet** of these creatures. Remi begins to understand that her parents need to move to where the jobs are and that there might be some advantages to moving after all.

VOCABULARY: Video

Students can listen for these terms to find many of them defined in the video.

*(*Definitions found in the Wild Words glossary at www.wildfiles.tv)*

adaptations	insulation	reindeer
arboreal*	lichens*	ruminant/rumination*
Barrenground caribou	migration*	rut*
density*	nomadic	symbiotic relationship
DNA	photosynthesis*	synchronization of birth
camouflage*	predators*	trans-continental
circumpolar	<i>Rangifer tarandus</i>	Woodland Caribou
dominant genes*	regurgitation*	

VOCABULARY: Interactive Content

(Definitions pop up on the DVD when terms are scrolled over)

antlers	lichens	taiga
bovids	longevity	tendon
cervids	migrate/migration	terrestrial
extinct	mosses	tundra
fungi	populations	ungulates
gestation	predators	weaning
herbivores	<i>Rangifer tarandus</i>	
horns	sedges	

SONG: "Caribou Bu" – sing along with Chris! (See lyrics on pg.6).

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (after viewing video and exploring the interactive content)

- How is the caribou specially adapted to its environment?
- Give an example of how caribou differ from other species of deer.
- In the video Paula talked about the symbiotic relationship between algae and fungi which makes lichen. Explain what is meant by 'symbiotic relationship'. Give examples of other symbiotic relationships found in nature.
- Why do caribou migrate? What would happen to the herds if they didn't migrate?
- Why do you think caribou calves are able to run within a few hours of being born?
- Have you ever had to move? What happened? How did you feel about moving?
- What did Remi decide about her own life after learning about caribou?

ACTIVITIES:

- After watching the video, have students review the interactive content in groups or independently. Once they have finished all the material, have them complete the caribou word search, crossword puzzle or quiz to evaluate their learning.
- Invite a wildlife biologist to your class to talk about caribou or another migratory species.
- The video gave examples of caribou adaptations that help them survive in the northern winters. List these adaptations. Research another northern animal's adaptations and compare these to the caribou adaptations using a chart or Venn diagram.
- Watch the video *Stories from the Seventh Fire: Summer - Legend of the Caribou*. Research another animal that migrates. Write a 'pourquoi' tale explaining why that animal first began to migrate.
- Make a drawing of the caribou's winter habitat and summer habitat. In a paragraph, compare the two and explain the advantages of each for caribou.
- Woodland caribou are classified as 'threatened' under the Species at Risk Act. Research what this means for these caribou. Find out what can be done to help preserve this species. Make a poster or brochure to encourage others to help save this endangered species.
- Write a short story about the threats faced by a caribou and its herd traveling between winter and summer habitats.
- Write a list of ways a school can make new students feel welcome. Use these ideas to create a poster and brochures about the topic to present to the rest of the school at an assembly.

HANDS ON SCIENCE:

Print out the complete lesson plan for this Hands on Science experiment.

Caribou: That Sinking Feeling

It's no accident that caribou have big feet. They spend a lot of their lives in deep snow and big feet act a bit like snowshoes. Try this activity to avoid that sinking feeling!

There are a total of 30 lesson plans for experiments and activities available to *WildFiles.TV* members on www.wildfiles.tv. Each activity is related to a science concept from an episode of *WildFiles.TV*.

EDUCATIONAL FEATURES:

WildFiles.TV resource:

- a) Addresses specific learner expectations.
- b) Encourages students to develop and practice skills in science inquiry.
- c) Addresses a variety of learning styles.
- d) Applies to a range of grade levels and abilities.
- e) Shows animal species in their natural habitat.
- f) Is wildly humorous.
- g) Integrates subject matter across several subject areas.
- h) Is teacher-friendly.
- i) Provides students the opportunity to extend learning.
- j) Addresses the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) learning outcomes.
- k) Is interactive.
- l) Provides practice and study opportunities.

MORE WILDFILES.TV TITLES:

Episode Title	Featured Animal
Arachnophobia On the Loose	Tarantula
Big Ol' Moose	Moose
Hare We Go!	Snowshoe Hare
Feather of Hope	Peregrine Falcon
Just Can't Bear It	Black Bear
Lair of the Tiger	Tiger Salamander
Lone Wolf	Wolf
Owl for One, One for Owl	Barred Owl
Strong as a MuskoX	MuskoX
Tale of the Giant Beaver	Beaver
The Frog who Would be Prince	Wood Frog
You Say Buffalo, I Say Bison	Bison

WildFiles.TV
"Caribou Bu"
Song Lyrics

When the winter winds begin to blow
It gets colder the more north you go
There's a critter looks like some weird deer
It's from the Ice Age but not from here

The herds are huge and stretch for miles
And they're always on the move
There was one particular individual
His name was Bu

Hey Bu...Caribou Bu
Making his own mistakes
Don't worry 'bout the do do
When you're doing it your own way
Hey Bu...Caribou Bu
By taking a different path
You might just end up somewhere special
Then you'll have a last laugh

Trudging across the tundra one day
Bu just plain got bored
Walking and a-running is no fun when the
Bugs are biting you by the score

He decided to try a new direction
The others didn't want to take
They thought he was nuts for trying
Said it was a big mistake

Hey Bu...Caribou Bu
Don't do something dumb
Be careful what you do do
It ain't all gonna be fun
Hey Bu...you-hoo Bu!
Try not to get lost
Remember what you do do
Doesn't come without cost

So he headed south, left the other reindeer
And he walked for days and days
As he left the tundra the scenery changed
And he noticed the skateboard craze

He didn't wanna join that herd either
And decided to head on west
Got tired of walking and became a bus driver
He liked doing that the best

Hey Bu...Caribou Bu
Making his own mistakes
Be careful what you do do
When you're doing it your own way
Hey Bu...Caribou Bu
By taking a different path
You might just end up somewhere special
Then you'll have a last laugh