

Biosphere

Environment Museum

2012-2013

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM



Activities for school groups



Offer your students stimulating and educational experiences by participating in the Biosphere's activities!

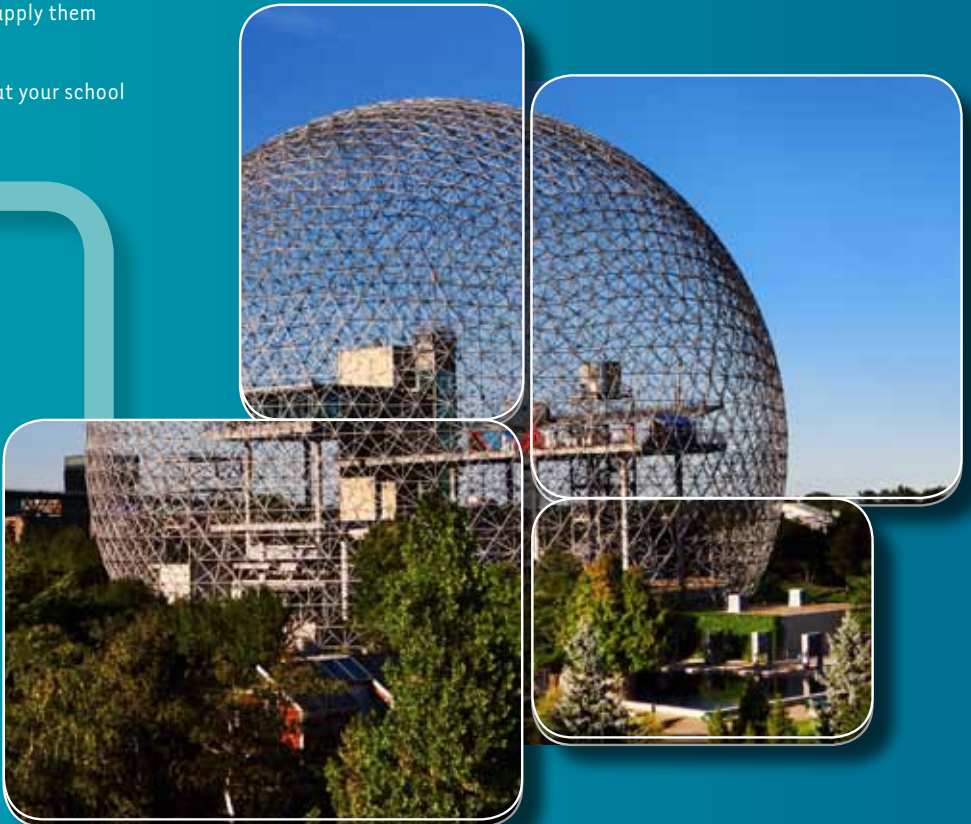
The Biosphere's educational program offers a range of activities adapted to the needs and interests of elementary and high school students and teachers.

Through play, experimentation and creation, students develop their teamwork, cooperation and problem-solving skills and learn to apply them to environmental protection.

These activities can be carried out at the Biosphere, at your school or in the field.

ABOUT THE BIOSPHERE

Architectural symbol of Expo 67, the Biosphere is a unique structure, located in the heart of Montréal in Parc Jean-Drapeau. As the only environment museum in North America, the Biosphere's mandate is to encourage citizens to take action and get involved in environmental issues. In addition to its general public programming and special events, the Biosphere is a recognized clearinghouse for environmental information.



At the Biosphere

Housed in Richard Buckminster Fuller's magnificent geodesic dome, the Biosphere offers you a variety of activities tailored to your group's various ages and interests. Explore one or many themes, including meteorology, biodiversity, water and responsible consumption!

The Biosphere also suggests you spend a day in this wonderful location by combining two activities to learn more about the environment!

Biosphere activities are available to groups of 15 or more. Reservations are required.

See pages 5 to 8 for more information!



The Biosphere at Your School

The Biosphere offers, all across Canada, four free thematic presentations by videoconference. An expert facilitator explores an environmental theme with students in a lively setting. Conferences at school are also available in some regions!

See pages 9 and 10 for more information!



In the Field

Students can also participate in concrete observation and ecoaction projects in the field. They collect data from their natural habitat or observe their own life habits with a view to making changes to them.

See page 11 for more information!



Choose the activities for your age group ...

		Pages	Ages	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.
At the Biosphere	The Eel Squad	5	Ages 4 to 6												
	Water Explorers	5	Ages 6 & 7												
	Urban Naturalists	6	Ages 6 to 12												
	The Secret of Gilgamesh	6	Ages 8 & 9												
	The Circle of Life	6	Ages 8 & 9												
	On the Water Trail	7	Ages 10 & 11												
	Nature Works!	7	Ages 10 & 11												
The Biosphere ... à la carte!	8	Ages 6 to 18													
The Biosphere at Your School	A Change in the Air	10	12 years & older												
	One World, One Planet!	10	12 years & older												
	Drop by Drop	10	12 years & older												
	Variety Is the Spice of Life!	10	12 years & older												
In The Field	BioKits	11	Ages 6 to 12												
	Adopt a River	11	Ages 10 to 18												

AT THE BIOSPHERE



THE EEL SQUAD

Ages: 4 to 6

Theme: Discovery of the aquatic ecosystem

An eel (puppet) from The Eel Squad guides youngsters along the waterways from their house to the river. The eel reveals the wonders and friends of water, but also explains that the waste that is being discharged into the water is damaging its habitat. Together, youngsters and the eel look for ways to clean up its home.

Duration: 90 minutes



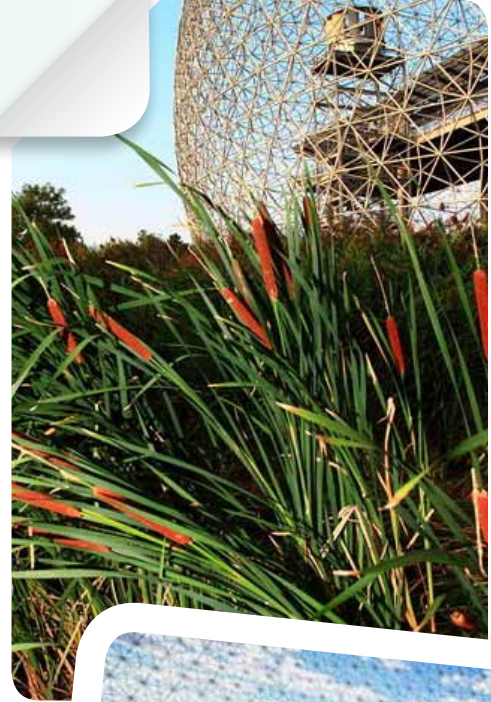
WATER EXPLORERS

Ages: 6 and 7

Theme: Nature discovery

The activity is led by a modern-day fur trapper who teaches the children to respect nature while they take on three challenges, gaining knowledge of water and aquatic ecosystems. Throughout their visit, children collect amulets to add to their explorer necklace.

Duration: 90 minutes



AT THE BIOSPHERE

continued ...



New!

THE URBAN NATURALISTS

Ages: 6 to 12

Theme: Biodiversity

This guided excursion will allow you to observe and discover some of Île Sainte-Hélène's biodiversity! Participants are invited to explore nature through their senses. Remember to bring hats, sunscreen and appropriate clothing and footwear for this outing.

Duration: 90 to 120 minutes



THE SECRET OF GILGAMESH

Ages: 8 and 9

Theme: Meteorology

King Gilgamesh seems to control the weather. One day, his friend Enkidou persuades him to reveal his secret to the people of Uruk. In the course of the activity, students learn about the usefulness of various weather instruments, the water cycles, several extreme weather phenomena as well as various ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Duration: 90 minutes



THE CIRCLE OF LIFE

Ages: 8 and 9

Theme: Biodiversity

In this activity, students will explore the beauty of biodiversity as well as the many relationships that exist between all living things and their habitat. By exploring Canadian biodiversity, they will discover its richness and complexity and understand the factors that influence life in a wetland. The discoveries made throughout this activity allow for a better understanding of the importance of preserving the diversity of life.

Duration: 90 minutes



AT THE BIOSPHERE

continued ...



ON THE WATER TRAIL

Ages: 10 and 11

Theme: Water use

Interpretative guides encourage students to learn about the economic and social importance of the St. Lawrence River. Following the Water Trail at The Biosphere, students see how humans have altered the river over the years, and they are introduced to the environment-related issues of navigation, responsible consumption and access to drinking water.

Duration: 90 minutes



NATURE WORKS!

Ages: 10 and 11

Theme: Nature

Throughout the activity, students will discover the relationships that exist between different animal and plant species and human beings. In a laboratory setting, they will learn more about biomimicry by exploring how science imitates nature. Students will also reflect on the impacts of human activity as well as the various actions they can undertake to preserve nature.

Duration: 90 minutes



AT THE BIOSPHERE

continued ...



THE BIOSPHERE ... À LA CARTE!

Ages: 6 to 18

Theme: Optional

The Biosphere offers guided tours adapted to your group's ages and interests. Our "à la carte" option allows you to combine a number of Biosphere activities, including science activities, films or conferences (usually offered outside locations). **Duration:** 90 minutes



« SOUTENIR L'ÉCOLE MONTRÉLAISE » (SUPPORT MONTRÉAL'S SCHOOLS) PROGRAM

This program of the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport du Québec (Quebec Department of Education, Recreation and Sports) is intended for Montréal disadvantaged schools with the aim of giving them better access to cultural institutions.

Find out whether you are eligible by visiting: www.mels.gouv.qc.ca/ecolemontrealaise



THE BIOSPHERE AT YOUR SCHOOL

The Biosphere offers, all across Canada, four free thematic presentations by videoconference. Conferences at schools are also available in some regions.



In a lively setting, an expert facilitator explores an environmental theme with students. It is possible to connect several schools across Canada at the same time to encourage discussion among young people from various cities, provinces or territories.

Duration? 60 minutes
When? Monday to Friday
For whom? 12 years and older



Technical requirements for conferences at schools

- Groups of 90 or more.
- PC computer with Windows and PowerPoint 2003 (or more recent).
- Projector and microphone.

Technical requirements for videoconferences

- Groups of 10 or more.
- Videoconference equipment (Tandberg or Polycom). Skype, NetMeeting and MSN IM are not accepted.
- High-speed Internet.

THE BIOSPHERE AT YOUR SCHOOL



continued ...



A Change in the Air fosters discussion with an expert facilitator about the very latest scientific information on climate change, its impacts on the environment and what we can do about it.

Theme: Climate change



One World, One Planet! sheds light on our consumption and its impacts, examining the life cycle of products and our ecological footprint. With an expert facilitator, students develop a critical mindset with respect to consumption and learn to reduce its effects on our planetary ecosystem.

Theme: Responsible consumption



Drop by Drop helps students understand water's cycles and the importance of protecting it. Students discuss with an expert facilitator the impacts of human activities on water and the actions they can take to limit those impacts.

Theme: Water



Variety is the Spice of Life!

Variety is the Spice of Life! helps students understand the importance of biodiversity and the pressures we exert on the natural environment. With an expert facilitator, students discuss biodiversity and how to preserve it.

Theme: Biodiversity



Information and Reservations

By email:

edl-edc.biosphere@ec.gc.ca

By telephone:

514-496-8282 or 1-866-487-8282 (toll-free)

IN THE FIELD



Students take part in concrete observation and ecoaction projects.



BIOKITS

Ages: 6 to 12

Theme: Biodiversity

Want to get moving and set off on an adventure? Wherever you are, out in nature or in the city, the Biosphere offers you entertaining ways of exploring Canada's rich biodiversity.

Choose from a family of BioKits and explore biodiversity in urban areas, the Canadian wilderness as well as the Trans Canada Trail.

Their purpose is to engage you in learning about the value of local natural areas and biodiversity and to empower you to help protect these areas.

The following BioKits are now available: Nature, Urban, Trans Canada Trail, Montréal, Halifax, Sutton, Vancouver, Edmonton and, in the fall, Ottawa.

To download PDF versions, or for further information, please visit www.ec.gc.ca/biotrousses-biokits

Duration: 90 to 150 minutes



ADOPT A RIVER

Ages: 10 to 18

Theme: Water

Using basic scientific equipment, students learn about the characteristics of their river by studying its physicochemical and bacteriological properties. They also learn to collect and identify macro-invertebrates, which are excellent biological indicators of water quality. These activities help students understand their environment and identify actions they can take to improve it. Training and scientific support provided.

This project is coordinated by the Groupe d'éducation et d'écosurveillance de l'eau.

Duration: 25 hours

Information and reservations: www.pjse.ca

CONTACT US



www.ec.gc.ca/biosphere



facebook.com/biospheremtl



@biospheremtl

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Également disponible en français

By mail or in person:

160 Chemin Tour-de-l'Isle
Île Sainte-Hélène, Montréal QC H3C 4G8
Jean-Drapeau Metro Station

By telephone:

514-496-8282
1-866-487-8282 (toll-free)

By email:

reservations.biosphere@ec.gc.ca

Services

- Free parking for up to three buses
- Lunch room (by reservation only)
- Picnic area (seasonal)
- Wheelchair access

