



**Science Unit:** *Discovering Life in Local Habitats*

**Lesson 3:** *Rainforest Life: UBC Botanical Garden field trip*

School Year: 2009/2010

Developed for: Weir Elementary School, Vancouver School District

Developed by: UBC Botanical Gardens

Grade level: Presented to grades 1 and 2; appropriate for grades K – 7

Duration of lesson: Two lessons within a field trip, each an hour long

### **Objectives**

1. Observe and learn about the variety of life in a forest on a garden tour.
2. Explore the forest from a new perspective by taking a canopy walkway tour.

### **Background Information**

UBC Botanical Gardens have outreach programs for schools. We took their guided tour through the gardens, and the canopy tour, both led by Botanical Garden instructors.

### **Materials**

- science notebook, pencil and lunch in backpack for each student

### **Guided tour of UBC Botanical Gardens**

The students were shown various interesting features, plants and animals on a walk through the garden. Sights included: a nurse log, a dead tree with woodpecker holes, a hollow Western Red Cedar to walk through, bald eagle nest, the herb garden. The tour included planting chive seeds in a pot to take home.

Students wrote in their notebooks on what they had seen on this tour.

### **Canopy Walkway tour at UBC botanical gardens**

The canopy walkway is a stunning walk along metal bridges built between coniferous trees, arriving at one point in the upper canopy of the forest. UBC Botanical Gardens have this description of the tour: "The Canopy Walkway Tour highlights native species in the forest. There are 3 main coniferous trees adjacent to the Canopy platforms, the grand fir, Douglas fir, and the western red cedar. The tour shares information about the interesting features of these trees, as well as the other plants in the forest. For these plants, the tour outlines some of the First Nations uses and cultural significance, along with connections to the environment and wildlife."

Students wrote in their notebooks on what they had seen on this tour.

### **References**

<[www.ubcbotanicalgarden.org](http://www.ubcbotanicalgarden.org)> UBC Botanical Garden web site. Accessed May 25, 2010.