



# Ecosystems & Plants for Food and Fibre

Weaselhead Field Trip Student Worksheets

Name:

Date:

## **1. Ecosystem of Study: Grasslands (Up at the top of the Weaselhead)**

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In the space below use your five senses to do a quick sketch and use words to describe the Ecosystem.

**Use your observation skills to answer the following questions:**

With so much of the introduced Smooth Brome grass, do other plants in these grasslands get much sunlight or room for their roots?

Is there much biodiversity of plant life in this ecosystem?

Describe the plant and animal interactions you observe in this habitat.

Identify an edible plant or a plant used as a tool or clothing in this habitat and explain how it was used.

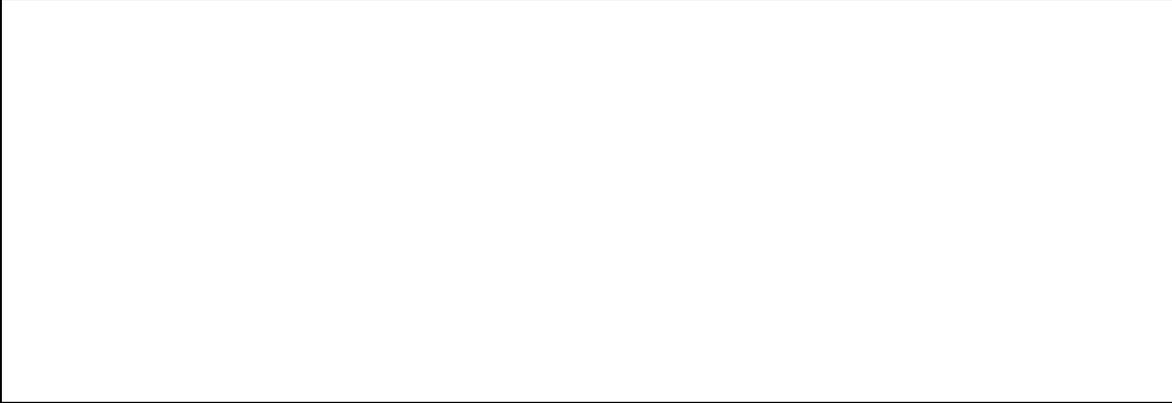
How do you think the First Nations survived in this habitat? Explain using examples found in this ecosystem.

What other animals would dominate this grassland habitat?

## **2.Ecosystem of Study: Aspen Stand**

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In the space below use your five senses to do a quick sketch and use words to describe the ecosystem.



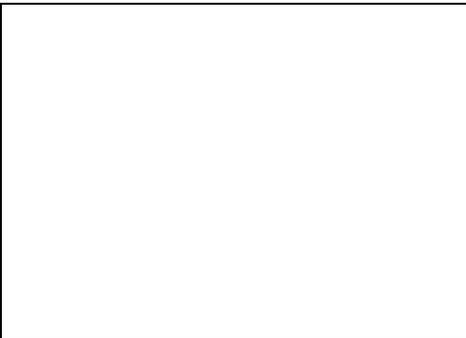
**Use your observation skills to answer the following questions:**

Do you see a greater variety of plant species in this habitat than in the grasslands?

What are some of the plant and animal interactions that take place within this ecosystem?

Identify a plant from this ecosystem that is used as a herb, medicine or a tool. Name the plant.  
\_\_\_\_\_. Describe how it is used for medicinal or herbal purposes or what tool it makes.

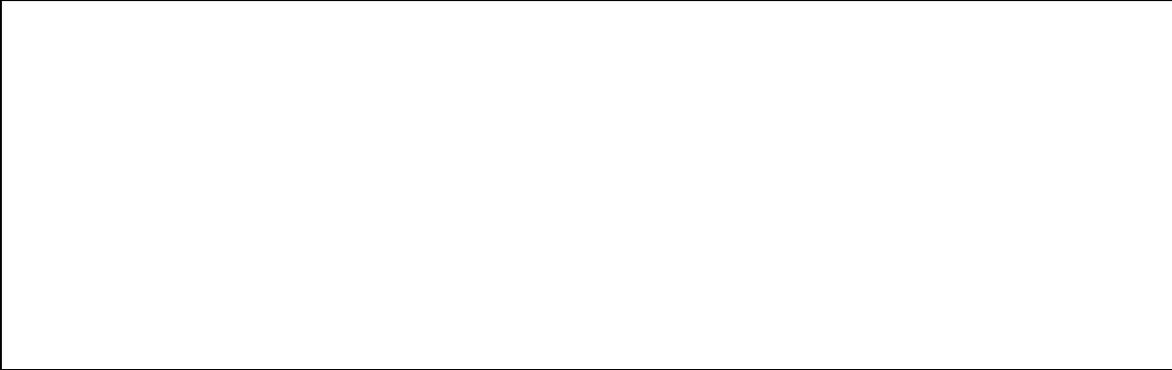
Complete a quick sketch and describe the general structure of the Trembling Aspen root system.



How is the Aspen stand different from the grasslands? Is there a new tool, a new food source or resource that the Aspen forest provides?

### **3.Ecosystem of Study: Riverine Forest Ecosystem (at the bottom of the hill)**

In the space below use your five senses to do a quick sketch and use words to describe the ecosystem.



**Use your observation skills to answer the following questions:**

Do you see more or less variety in this eco-system than in the Aspen Grove?

Are there layers to this habitat or is the undergrowth open?

Describe a plant or animal interaction that takes place within this ecosystem.

Identify a plant from this ecosystem with uses as herbs or medicines. Describe how it can be used for medicinal or herbal purposes.

What specific growing condition is required for the Balsam Poplar tree to be successful in the Riverine Forest Ecosystem?

**4. Ecosystem of Study: Tall Shrub Ecosystem (Across the green bridge on the left or the willow forest before you cross the bridge)**

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In the space below use your five senses to do a quick sketch and use words to describe the ecosystem.

**Use your observation skills to answer the following questions:**

Do you see more or less plant variety in this habitat? \_\_\_\_\_. What is the groundcover like?

What are some of the plant and animal interactions that take place within this ecosystem?

What are some of the early Indigenous uses of the plants in this eco-system?

Would this habitat be a better place for your group to set up a long-term camp?

What short-term (for example overnight) purposes might you use this area for?  
Hint: the willow shrubs were used by indigenous people for?

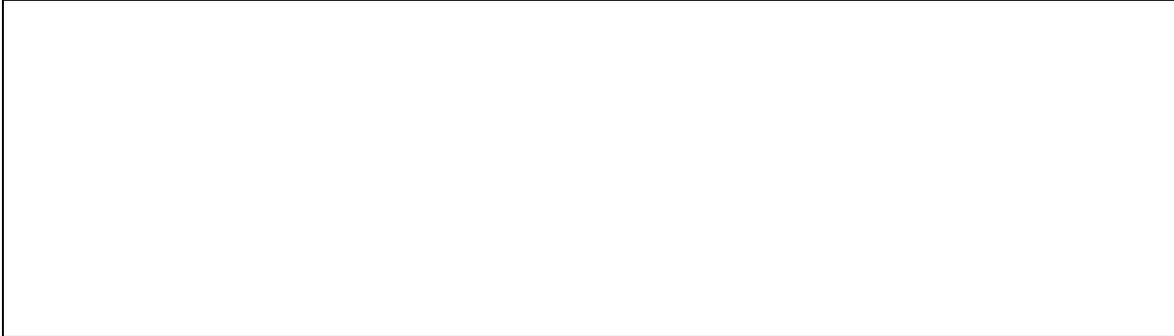
The Willow was used by early Ranchers for?

Is this an area your group would set up long term camp? \_\_\_\_\_ Why or why not?

**5. Ecosystem of Study: Spruce Grove Forest (Between the Lagoon and the Oxbow) or the meadow.**

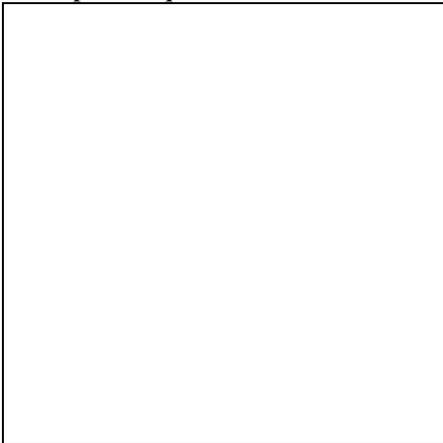
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In the space below use your five senses to do a quick sketch and use words to describe the ecosystem.



**Use your observation skills to answer the following questions:**

Complete a quick sketch and describe what the groundcover looks like.



Do you see a large variety of plants in this habitat or a low variety?

Is there a temperature difference in this habitat?

What are some of the plant and animal interactions that take place within this ecosystem?

What were some of the early uses of parts of the Spruce tree prior to the 1900's?

- a.
- b.
- c.

Would this be a good place to make a long-term camp or is it just a place to get resources and supplies from?

Play the Predator/Prey game first with the human being an indigenous person, then as the human being an early European. Does the game end sooner with one or the other ending?

## **General Questions**

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Which habitat would your group of people prefer to spend the summer or the winter at? Explain.

Now as the person you are today, which habitat would you prefer to live in? Explain.

Describe and interpret the consequences on this land if we use herbicides, pesticides and biological controls in agriculture and forestry.

Identify a human impact in one of the ecosystems explored today. Explain how this impact may affect plants for food and fibre.

How long have humans been discovering the uses of plants? \_\_\_\_\_. What plant or tree in the Weaslehead has been used as a fibre or a food for thousands of years?

If an Invasive Plant Species entered your chosen home habitat, what could the possible actions and consequences of controlling this species be as opposed to leaving it be.

### **For example:**

If you were a Rancher and the grasslands that your cattle thrive on is invaded by leafy spurge which is inedible and is taking over your range land for your cattle. How could you handle it and why w