



# Winter Environmental Education Outreach Programmes

With the Water of Leith Conservation Trust  
January to April 2011

This winter, the Water of Leith Conservation Trust is offering an exciting new programme of outreach visits to schools. Our engaging presentations and hands-on workshops teach students about Earth's processes through the wildlife and ecology of the Water of Leith. They examine its human history and look at the ways in which all of us can care for Edinburgh's river. If you don't see exactly what you want, please give us a call. We can offer individualized special visits or even an ongoing programme to suit your curricular needs. When the weather outside gets too wintry for outdoor learning, let our Environmental Education Officer bring the Water of Leith to your classroom!

## **Bringing the Water of Leith into the Classroom**

**P1-S2**

Students explore the human history of the Water of Leith Conservation Trust. In this workshop, they travel from the Ice Age beginnings of the river, to the Jacobite encampment, through to the milling industry, and to the recent return of the otters. For schools within walking distance of the Water of Leith, our education officer will lead the class on an activity walk to find out more about ecological and human history of the river in your community.

This programme can be tailored to support the curricular interests of each school. We will always incorporate human history, food chains, the water cycle, and environmental sustainability in the workshop.

**Half Day Programme** - This classroom-based workshop helps students to find out about the human history and ecology of the river in their own community while also giving them opportunities to participate in creative writing, art, and oral presentations.

**Full Day Programme** – This workshop combines the classroom experience detailed above with an activity walk from the school to the river.

## **The Plants and Wildlife of the Water of Leith**

**P1-P4**

Stroke a badger pelt, investigate life under the surface of the water with a freshwater invertebrate sample, and smell the fishy odour of otter spraint. This hands-on workshop brings the plants and animals of the Water of Leith to your classroom while also teaching children about food chains, life cycles, and the ways in which we as people can look after the plants and animals living on the river. **One hour.**

### **Food Chains on the Water of Leith**

**P3-S2**

From algae, to mayfly nymph, to trout, to heron: this workshop teaches students about the many food chains on the river and the ways in which ecological communities are interdependent. Students investigate a freshwater sample for invertebrate life, observe a mummified Pipistrelle bat, and examine the contents of an owl pellet. Younger classes take on the role of different plants and animals in 'The Great Water of Leith Food Chain Game.' Older classes act as environmental consultants with real-life scenarios of disruptions to the food chain on the river. They discuss the potential impact of both natural and human disruptions and suggest ways in which we as humans can mitigate the impact. **One hour.**

### **The Water Cycle and the Water of Leith**

**P3-S2**

The water cycle is central to life on earth and yet it can be quite challenging for students to understand how it actually affects their lives. In this workshop, we look at the vital role of the Water of Leith in the water cycle and explore key concepts such as run-off and evaporation as they apply on the river. Students explore life under the surface of the water with a freshwater invertebrate sample as well learning about the otters that travel the river from its source in the Pentland Hills to the sea. Younger classes participate in our fun quiz game called 'From Source to Sea and Back Again.' Older classes examine potential natural and human disruptions to the water cycle in the form of real-life scenarios. **One hour.**

### **Winter Programmes at the Water of Leith Visitor Centre**

In addition to our Winter Outreach Programme, the Water of Leith Conservation Trust continues to offer our Centre-based environmental education programmes year-round. All are available through the winter months, but please book early for spring dates to ensure availability!

**Bugs, Slugs and Beasties**

**P1-P4**

**Water and Rivers**

**P3-S2**

**Woodland Places: Seasonal Changes**

**P1-P7**

**Our Environment . . . A Sustainable Future**

**P3-S2**

**Biodiversity Matters**

**P3-S2**

**Canals and Transport: Past and Present**

**P2-S1**

**Jacobites in Edinburgh**

**P4-S2**

For more detailed course descriptions of our Centre-based programmes, please visit our website at [www.waterofleith.org.uk](http://www.waterofleith.org.uk)

#### **Cost**

Outreach Programme One hour	£20
Half day	£40
Full day	£60
Centre Programmes (per child)	
CEC Schools	£4.00 per child or (min charge £75 per class)
Other Schools	£4.50 per child or (min charge £85 per class)

All our programmes can be tailored to meet differentiated needs.

#### **Contact us**

For more information or to book a programme please call our teacher **Ruth Prince** or Sandie our administrator on **0131 455 7367** or email [admin@waterofleith.org.uk](mailto:admin@waterofleith.org.uk)

Visit us at the Water of Leith Visitor Centre, 24 Lanark Road, Edinburgh, EH14 1TQ. Open Daily 10.00 am to 4.00pm  
Lothian buses 44 & 34 stop outside the Visitor Centre and Slateford Station is just minutes away.

Or visit our website at [www.waterofleith.org.uk](http://www.waterofleith.org.uk)