

CARING COMMUNITY

Protecting our Parks

Caring communities are connected, inclusive, and collaborative. Being engaged and active in our community benefits those who contribute and care for each other and our collective well-being is served by these relationships. Animals are also an important part of our communities and they play a vital role. Animals are often part of our families, we depend on them for food, and many other roles. By working together, empathizing with others, and demonstrating care for all, we are improving our communities for everyone and every living thing.

Use the following discussion questions and activities to foster caring and compassion for animals, people, and the environment.

Discussion Questions

- Do you agree that ‘caring for others’ is community? Why or why not? What else ‘makes community’?
- Who is part of your community? Are animals part of your community? Why or why not?
- Do you think animals play an important role in communities? Why or why not?
- Who is responsible to care for pets? Farm animals? Wild animals?
- Give some examples of how you care for others, animals, and the environment? (What are the similarities in how we care for other living things and the environment?)
- How does caring about other people help your community? How does caring about animals help your community? How does caring about the environment help your community?
- Who are some famous people who have improved their community? *Examples could include: Louise McKinney, Jane Goodall, Terry Fox*



Activities

1. **Caring Community Members** – Caring communities include individuals that care for other people, animals and the environment. People such as veterinarians, animal protection officers, and farriers are members of the community that care for animals as part of their job! As a class, watch the video “Valour’s Story” (4:30).

Post Video Discussion Questions

- What are the three careers mentioned in the video?
- How do people in these careers make a difference in their community?
- In the video, Peace Officer Stevenson says that “I feel these horses fought for themselves, I feel I was the voice for these horses”. What do you think she means by this?
- What interests, skills, and knowledge do you think Peace Officer Stevenson has that helps her do her job? (*animals, helping animals and people, compassionate and empathetic, registered veterinary tech.*)

Using the “Personal Interests, Skills and Knowledge” activity sheet have students think about their own interests, skills and knowledge. Have students pick potential occupations that would fit their interests, skills and knowledge and describe how each occupation helps their community. Visit everylivingthing.ca/CaringCommunity for the video and activity sheet.

EXTENSION: Reach out to a community member who makes a difference in their community for animals, people or the environment (veterinarian, nurse, fish and wildlife officer, etc.) Ask if they would be willing to answer a few questions virtually via Zoom, Google Hangouts, or Skype. As a class, brainstorm interview questions, prior to the interview.



For videos, activity sheets, additional information for teachers and students and curriculum connections visit:

EVERYLIVINGTHING.CA/CARINGCOMMUNITY

Activities continued

2. **Protecting our Parks** – Provincial and national parks play an important role in our communities. They sustain Alberta's natural environment by ensuring the land remains relatively untouched, which helps plants and wildlife thrive in their natural environment. People benefit from these protected parks by having a place for relaxation, recreation and exploration. Without these parks and recreation areas being protected, they could be developed which can result in habitat being destroyed. Ask your students:

- What are the consequences of destroying habitats? How would this impact people, animals, and the environment?
- Whose responsibility should it be to preserve these parks?
- What can we do to ensure these parks stay protected?

Have students research different threats and challenges provincial and national parks face and what we can do to help stop these threats and challenges. Have students write a persuasive paragraph, design a pamphlet or create a short video on why it is important to care about, and what we can do to help preserve provincial parks, national parks and protected areas in Alberta. Visit everylivingthing.ca/CaringCommunity for links for student research.

3. **The Famous Five** – Louise McKinney, was part of the Famous Five that changed the course of history in Canada by starting a petition that lead to the ruling that women were included as 'persons' under the law. This gave most women the right to vote, and paved the way for gender equality. As a class watch the video "How 5 Woman Changed Canada Forever Over a Cup of Tea" (2:45).

Louise McKinney, who cared deeply for animals, also brought the humane movement to Canada encouraging the need for humane societies and bands of mercy (kindness clubs). McKinney also recognized the needless extravagance of using bird feathers in hats for decorative purposes and wanted to reduce the use of animals wherever possible. Individually, have students research Louise McKinney and how her caring for others, including animals, impacted the world we live in today. Students can write a short paragraph or create a poster to demonstrate their findings. Visit everylivingthing.ca/CaringCommunity for the video and for additional information on McKinney's role in the history of humane education.

ALTERNATIVE: Students could choose another member of the Famous Five to research. What contribution have they made towards a more caring community?

MAKE YOUR MARK!



Let us know if you do any of the activities with your students to get on the Kindness Map!



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