

"ADOPT" A WILD ANIMAL

Grades 6 to 8

Wild animals across Ontario need your help! By "adopting" a wild species through this activity, you are making a commitment to help wildlife. You will learn facts about your chosen species, including the threats they face, and how you, and others, can make life safer for them.

Unlike adopting a pet cat or dog, you will not be bringing your wild species home to live with you. But your efforts will help birds, turtles, coyotes or bats, continue to survive in the wild - their home!

HOW IT WORKS:

- ▶ To get started, select a species from the list below:



Eastern Coyote



Snapping Turtle



Golden-Crowned Kinglet



Little Brown Bat

- ▶ Complete at least 3 of the activities in the section dedicated to the animal(s) you've chosen. Use the resources provided there to learn more about your species and carry out the activities.
- ▶ Once you have completed 3 (or more!) activities, share your work with us at Toronto Wildlife Centre (TWC) – we want to see what you've been up to! Send us photos, links, videos, or stories of your projects – whatever best demonstrates all of your hard work!

By email: education@torontowildlifecentre.com

By mail: 60 Carl Hall Rd, Unit 4, Toronto, ON M3K 2C1

- ▶ To recognize your commitment to your chosen species, we will send you an "adoption" certificate featuring a patient receiving medical treatment and rehabilitative care at TWC!

WANT TO HELP EVEN MORE? TAKE ON THE FUNDRAISING CHALLENGE!



Unfortunately, even if people are taking action to reduce threats, many wild animals will still become sick, injured or orphaned and require medical care. You can help them return to health, and the wild, by fundraising to support wild patients at Toronto Wildlife Centre (TWC), or your local wildlife rehabilitation centre!

In each species' section, there is an option to take part in a Fundraising Challenge as one of the 3 activities required to obtain your species adoption certificate. By choosing this option, you will help sick animals receive medicine, orphaned animals receive healthy formula and food, and injured animals receive life-saving surgery!

This painted turtle was admitted to TWC with a broken shell after being hit by a car. Your fundraising efforts will help wild patients like this one heal and return to the wild!

AND FUNDRAISING HAS BENEFITS FOR YOU TOO!

Raise **\$100**

to receive a photo and story of a patient in care at TWC that you are helping!

Raise **\$250**

to receive a photo and story of a patient in care at TWC that you are helping, and print copies of the book *Animal Hospital* and wildlife education guide *Kids Go Wild!*

Raise **\$500**

or more to receive a photo and story of a patient in care at TWC that you are helping, copies of the book *Animal Hospital* and wildlife education guide *Kids Go Wild!*, and a free class/group presentation from TWC's Education team featuring live education ambassadors!

Check out these [fundraising ideas](#) to get you started!

ACTIVITIES CHECKLIST: EASTERN COYOTE

Using the resources provided below, complete at least 3 of these activities to help Eastern coyotes and earn your Coyote Adoption Certificate!



CLEVER AS A COYOTE

- ▶ Watch the e-learning module *Coyotes in the Urban Landscape* and make a list of 10 new things you learned about coyotes.

GIVE COYOTES A VOICE

**Please get permission from a parent or guardian before starting this activity*

- ▶ Coyotes are often misrepresented in the media (e.g. the news); start a social media page or host a webinar to share the facts about coyotes.

SONG DOG SCIENTIST

- ▶ Create a visual display board using photos, data, diagrams, charts, graphs, and tables to help people understand that coyotes (song dogs!) are a normal part of our communities and not to be feared – share your work at your school, local community centre or other public space.

ART FOR AWARENESS

- ▶ Do you have artistic talent? Draw or paint a poster that focuses on an action people can take to keep coyotes safe (e.g. don't feed them) – copy your piece of art and share it digitally, or put up posters in your neighbourhood or school.

COYOTE COMPOSITION

- ▶ Write a short story from the perspective of a coyote living in a big city – what do they do all day/night? What do they need to survive? What threats do they face?

PUT TO THE TEST

- ▶ Create a true/false quiz about coyotes – test your family, friends or classmates to see how much they know about coyotes and help them learn the facts!

HOWL AND WOOF

- ▶ Create a photo board to demonstrate the key differences between coyotes and domestic (pet) dogs. How can people keep pets and coyotes safe?

YOUTUBE IN SUPPORT OF COYOTES

**Please get permission from a parent or guardian before starting this activity*

- ▶ Are you an enthusiastic advocate for protecting coyotes? Share your passion and knowledge by creating a video and sharing it on YouTube (or another social media platform)! What do you want people to know about coyotes? Why should we treat coyotes with care and respect? Why should they be welcomed in cities?

FUNDRAISING CHALLENGE

- ▶ Check out our section on [fundraising!](#)

RESOURCES TO HELP YOU COMPLETE THESE ACTIVITIES:

E-Learning Module *Coyotes in the Urban Landscape*

Coyote Watch Canada

Toronto Wildlife Centre – Coyotes

Toronto Wildlife Centre – Kids Go Wild

City of Toronto

ACTIVITIES CHECKLIST: SNAPPING TURTLE

Using the resources provided below, complete at least 3 of these activities to help Ontario's turtles and earn your Snapping Turtle Adoption Certificate!

PHOTO BY ANN BROKELMAN



GIVE TURTLES A VOICE

- ▶ Do you want safer roads for turtles? Is there a risky road for turtles near you (e.g. beside a wetland)? Write to your municipal and/or provincial representatives to demand action – from public education, to road signs, to ecopassages – there's so much that can be done to help save turtles living near roads!
- ▶ For letter writing tips, visit:
 - [Operation Save The Turtles](#)
 - [Persuasive Writing for Kids: What Is It?](#)
 - [Find Your Member of Provincial Parliament \(MPP\)](#)

BECOME A CITIZEN SCIENTIST

- ▶ Everyone has the opportunity to participate in increasing knowledge of turtles! And the more knowledge we have, the more likely scientists and governments can take action to protect turtles. Whether in your backyard, at a local pond or wetland, or at a Great Lake, look for turtles and report sightings so we can learn more about their populations and where help is needed the most!
- ▶ For more information on citizen science and reporting, visit:
 - [What is Citizen Science?](#)
 - [Ontario Turtle Tally by Adopt-A-Pond](#)

JOIN THE GREAT CANADIAN SHORELINE CLEAN-UP

- ▶ Cleaning waterways of litter is critically important to protect wildlife like turtles. Lead a group clean-up or go solo – but because you're under 19, you'll need a responsible adult (e.g. a teacher or parent) to register the cleanup and attend with you on the day. Or, make a habit of regularly cleaning up garbage along waterways on your own (with permission from your parent/guardian)! For more information, visit:
 - [Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup](#)

ART FOR AWARENESS

- ▶ Do you have artistic talent? Draw or paint a poster that focuses on an action people can take to help turtles (e.g. move turtles off roads). Copy your piece of art and share it digitally, or put up posters in your neighbourhood or school.

WHY DID THE TURTLE CROSS THE ROAD?

- ▶ Create a visual display board using photos, data, diagrams, charts, graphs, and tables to help people understand the threats facing turtles on roads. Use Google maps to find roads near waterways in your city – which roads pose the greatest threat to turtles? Why? Can you think of a way to make these roads safer for turtles? Share your work at your school, local community centre or other public space.

YOUTUBE IN SUPPORT TURTLES

**Please get permission from a parent or guardian before starting this activity*

- ▶ Are you an enthusiastic advocate for protecting turtles? Share your passion and knowledge by creating a video and sharing it on YouTube (or other social media platform)! What do you want people to know about turtles? What are the top things people need to know to protect turtles?

WANTED IN THE WILD!

- ▶ Create “Wanted” posters for a turtle species at risk in Ontario. What are the biggest threats they face and how can people help? Share your posters online, in your school, or in your community. Focus on one species or all turtle species at risk.

TURTLE TALES

- ▶ Write a short story from the perspective of a turtle. What is life like in their pond/wetland/lake? What threats do they face? If humans could speak their language, what would they say to us?

FUNDRAISING CHALLENGE

- ▶ Check out our section on [fundraising!](#)

RESOURCES TO HELP YOU COMPLETE THESE ACTIVITIES:

Ontario Turtle Conservation Workshop

Rescuing Thousands of Turtles! Ontario Turtle Conservation Centre Tour*

*Contains a few images of injured turtles and surgery that may be too graphic for some viewers. Please get permission from a parent or guardian before watching this video.

Turtle 101

Turtle Safety- How To Help A Turtle Cross The Road

How to help a Snapping Turtle Cross the Road

Toronto Wildlife Centre – Sick or Injured Reptile

Toronto Wildlife Centre - Baby Turtles

Why did the turtle cross UNDER the road?
Because it used an eco-passage to travel safely!

Herps of Ontario

What To Do If You Hook a Turtle

Fishing Hooks

Species at Risk in Ontario

ACTIVITIES CHECKLIST: GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET (and other migratory songbirds)

Using the resources provided below, complete at least 3 of these activities to help golden-crowned kinglets and other species of migratory songbirds!



PHOTO BY CLEMENCE WONG

GIVE SONGBIRDS A VOICE

- ▶ Collisions with windows and other glass objects cause 25 million bird deaths across Canada each year! And more and more structures are being built with glass, increasing the problem.
- ▶ You can make a difference by asking your leaders (city councillors, mayors, members of parliament) to make laws that ensure buildings are designed and built in ways that are safer for birds. Share what you have learned about birds and why you think our leaders should take action to save them. For letter writing tips, visit:
 - [Persuasive Writing for Kids: What Is It?](#)
 - [Find Your Member of Provincial Parliament \(MPP\)](#)

WINDOW AND GLASS AUDIT

- ▶ Complete the activity 'Is My School Bird-Safe?' on page 19 of the Kids Go Wild! guide – you can use the same sheet to assess windows at your school, home, community centre or any other building. Which windows / glass structures are the most reflective or transparent and pose the greatest danger to birds?

GIVE A TWEET FOR SONGBIRDS

**Please get permission from a parent or guardian before starting this activity*

- ▶ [Select a songbird](#) that either lives in or passes through the area where you live during migration.
- ▶ Take a photo or [find a picture](#) or video of that species. Next, [learn more](#) about them, including the threats they face and create a series of 3 Tweets (Twitter) – or 3 posts if using another social media platform (e.g. Tiktok, Snapchat, Instagram, Facebook, etc.).
- ▶ Use your creativity! How can you draw attention to this species? How can people help?
- ▶ Tag Toronto Wildlife Centre so we can see how you're helping wild birds!
 - **Facebook:** @torontowildlifecentre
 - **Instagram:** @torontowildlifecentre
 - **Twitter:** @TWC_Wildlife

TAKE THE PLEDGE - LIGHTS OUT!

- ▶ Create an information poster / information sheet about how indoor and outdoor lighting can harm birds and other wildlife when left on at night.
- ▶ Share your poster / information sheet with friends, family members, fellow students and others and encourage them to "take the pledge" to reduce light pollution and help birds – examples include:
 - **I pledge** to close my window curtains at night to reduce escape of light
 - **I pledge** to turn off lights when I'm not in the room
 - **I pledge** to change my outdoor lighting to dark sky approved fixtures
- ▶ Create a way to share/display how many people have taken the pledge (e.g. provide participants with a badge or button, or create a list and post it at your school, etc.).

SOAP FOR SONGBIRDS

- ▶ Watch the short video: [Stop Birds From Hitting Windows in Minutes With a Bar of Soap](#)
- ▶ Pick a reflective window for your canvas and create a work of art on the outside of the window – you can draw any design you like!
- ▶ **NOTE:** This activity works best after completing the Glass Audit activity

GETTING CLINGY

- ▶ Watch the following videos:
 - [DIY: Create Bird-Friendly Window Decals](#)
 - [Make Bird-Friendly Window Decorations](#)
- ▶ Make your own gel clings and place them on the outside of a reflective window to prevent birds from colliding – the more you make the better!
- ▶ **NOTE:** This activity works best after completing the Glass Audit activity

PAINT FOR PASSERINES

- ▶ Watch the following videos:
 - [Prevent Bird Window Strikes with Washable Tempera Paint](#)
 - [DIY Washable Window Paint](#)
- ▶ Create your work of art on the outside of your window!
- ▶ **NOTE:** This activity works best after completing the Glass Audit activity

JOIN THE GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

- ▶ Visit [Great Backyard Bird Count](#) to learn more about counting birds and how to record sightings
- ▶ Decide where you will watch birds
- ▶ Pick a series of days you will watch birds (if different than the official bird count days)
- ▶ Watch birds for 15 minutes or more, at least once over the days you have selected

- ▶ Count all the birds you see or hear within your planned time/location and use the best tool for sharing your bird sightings: [Merlin Bird ID](#), [eBird Mobile](#), [eBird on Computer](#)

GROW A GARDEN FOR BIRDS

- ▶ Read [Native Species for Backyard Biodiversity](#)
- ▶ Watch the video [Why Garden for Birds](#) and follow the steps at the bottom of the page to design and plant a native garden to support birds.
- ▶ Your garden can be as small as one plant or shrub or as big as a forest! Every little bit helps wild birds!

FUNDRAISING CHALLENGE

- ▶ Check out our section on [fundraising!](#)

RESOURCES TO HELP YOU COMPLETE THESE ACTIVITIES:

Toronto Wildlife Centre -
How to Help a Bird Who Hit a Window

Toronto Wildlife Centre -
Distinguishing Baby Birds from
Sick or Injured Adults

Fatal Light Awareness Program (FLAP) -
Why do Birds Hit Buildings

Fatal Light Awareness Program (FLAP) -
Stop Birds from Hitting Windows

Stop Birds from Hitting Windows
in Minutes with a Bar of Soap

Make Migration-Friendly
Window Decorations

Light Pollution Effects on
Wildlife and Ecosystems

BirdCast Lights Out

ACTIVITIES CHECKLIST: LITTLE BROWN BAT

Using the resources provided below, complete at least 3 of these activities to help little brown bats and other species of bats in Ontario!



PHOTO BY REBECCA DEAN

GO BATTY FOR CITIZEN SCIENCE

- ▶ Have you seen bats in your area? Record your sightings [here](#) to help scientists learn more about where different species of bats feed and roost.

**Please get permission from a parent or guardian before starting this activity*

- ▶ For more information on citizen science and reporting, visit:
 - [What is Citizen Science?](#)

GIVE A BAT A HOME

- ▶ You will need the help of an adult for this project!
- ▶ Build or purchase a bat house and install it on your property; follow these steps to ensure that you are creating the most comfortable and healthy space for your neighbourhood bats!
 - [Information on bat houses](#)
 - [Participate in the bat box project](#)

BAT BIOGRAPHY

- ▶ Write a short story from the perspective of a bat living in a big city – what do they do all day/night? What do they need to survive? What threats do they face?

YOUTUBE IN SUPPORT OF BATS

**Please get permission from a parent or guardian before starting this activity*

- ▶ Are you an enthusiastic advocate for protecting bats? Share your passion and knowledge by creating a video and sharing it on YouTube (or other social media platform)! What do you want people to know about bats? What are the top things people need to know to protect bats?

WANTED IN THE WILD!

- ▶ Create “Wanted” posters for bat species in Ontario. What are the biggest threats they face and how can people help? Share your posters online, in your school, or in your community. Focus on one species or all bat species.

FACING FEARS

- ▶ Bats are often misunderstood; help people learn the facts about these important species!
- ▶ Create a “Did You Know?” list of the top 10 interesting things you have learned that will help people lose their fear of bats and appreciate these unique species.
- ▶ Share your list at your school, community centre, or on social media (with parental/guardian permission)

GIVE BATS A VOICE

- ▶ Habitat loss is the main cause of declines in bat populations. Help protect bat species by letting your leaders know that you want to protect critical habitat for bats. For letter writing tips, visit:
 - [Persuasive Writing for Kids: What Is It?](#)
 - [Find Your Member of Provincial Parliament \(MPP\)](#)

PUT TO THE TEST

- ▶ Create a true/false quiz about bats; test your family, friends or classmates to see how much they know about bats and help them learn the facts!

FUNDRAISING CHALLENGE

- ▶ Check out our section on [fundraising!](#)

RESOURCES TO HELP YOU COMPLETE THESE ACTIVITIES:

Toronto Wildlife Centre -Signs that a Bat is Sick or Injured

Little Brown Myotis

Bat Facts

Bat Myths

White-Nose Syndrome Impacting Bats in Canada

Toronto Zoo Bat Week: Day One

Toronto Zoo Bat Week: Day Two

Toronto Zoo Bat Week: Day Three

Toronto Zoo Bat Week: Day Four

Toronto Zoo Bat Week: Day Five