

HABITATS AND COMMUNITIES

DEAR TEACHER:

Thank you for allowing us to enrich your students' education with this program. We hope that our combined efforts will provide a worthwhile, enjoyable and 'smooth' Museum visit.

Please note:

Enter your bookings in your Daybook (forgotten bookings are disappointing).

Class size is 30 students.

Double check your confirmation ticket for accuracy and inform us of any changes immediately.

Cancellation policy:

7 days notice must be provided to avoid being charged for your program.

Call us at **988-0626** if you have any students with special needs in your class or if you prefer to have particular areas of the program emphasized.

Divide your class into two groups before arriving. One supervisor per group is required to follow behind the students.

Arrive early out of courtesy to our volunteers and for an optimal experience.

Have the admission fees collected before arriving and make the payment at the Museum box office (located on the main level) before the program's starting time. Please make cheques payable to The Manitoba Museum.

Class control remains the teacher's responsibility.

Lunches A number of areas in the Museum complex or the surrounding area are suitable for lunch. Spaces cannot be booked in advance. For more information phone 988-0626

Jackets and lunches can be stored in pull-out racks located near the classrooms on the lower level of the Museum. Valuables should be left at home.

Call **988-0626** or write us if we can help you develop specific Museum activities or if you have questions, suggestions or concerns.

We appreciate hearing from the students and often display their posters and drawings if you would like to share them with us.

Enjoy your visit!

THE PROGRAM: Grade 4-6 (1 hour)

The Boreal Forest Gallery is an authentic reproduction of a northern forest. The objective of this program is to focus student attention on the ecological aspects of the forest. Three areas of ecology will be discussed: population interaction, adaptation and habitat.

PROGRAM OUTLINE:

1. The class divides into two groups and each group tours the Boreal Forest, discussing its components and focussing on the above three areas of ecology.
2. The students examine touchable forest specimens which provide them with a concrete dimension of the program.

PRE-VISIT ACTIVITIES:

- ❖ Identify the plant and animal populations in the illustration. For each animal, list its food type. Classify the populations as producers, first, second and third order consumers.
- ❖ Create a food chain by using the organisms in the illustration (e.g. weeds-insects-fish-mink). Using arrows, link food chains together to form food webs.
- ❖ Which of these animals build homes for themselves? Discuss other ways in which behavioral adaptations help animals to survive (e.g. lynx's stealth, fish jumping).
- ❖ Describe adaptations to environmental changes (e.g. hibernating insects, bird migration, coat color change of hares). Identify specific characteristics/adaptations for some of the illustrated organisms which assist in survival (e.g. frogs and hares sit very still: young hares are born with eyes open: heavily spotted lynx kits).

FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES:

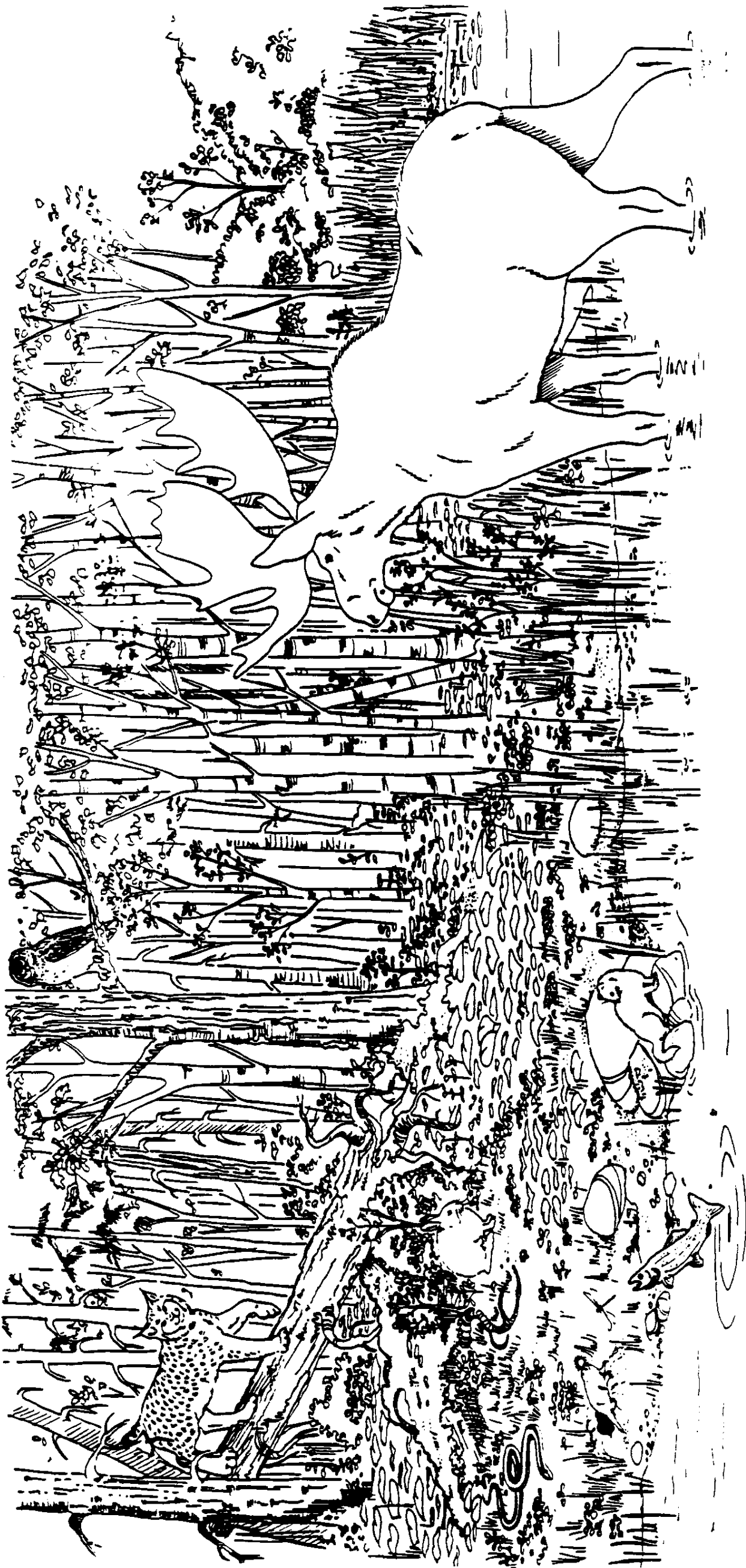
- ❖ Classify animals of the Boreal Forest as dependent or independent animals (e.g. level of care for young).
 - ❖ Discuss the consequences of over- population (e.g. moose) or under- population (e.g. lynx) and the resulting environmental impact.
 - ❖ Name the types of vegetation in the Boreal Forest which must compete for survival (e.g. cattails, bulrushes, pond lilies, grasses, thistles, spruce, poplar, birch trees). Why do we not see many 'garden variety' plants in the wild?
 - ❖ List adaptations of plants for survival (e.g. flexible stems, roots tolerant to water, growth rate, shade tolerance, root type, leaf size)
 - ❖ If some of these animals were deposited in an arctic habitat, what would happen?
5. Predict the changes in the forest eco- system if the water dried up (tie into hydro-electric projects).

SCHOOL PROGRAMS SPONSORED BY:

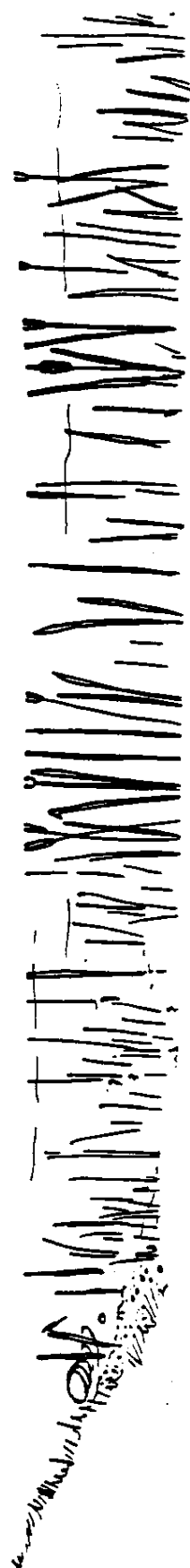
THE
Great-West Life
ASSURANCE COMPANY



stronger communities together™
GREAT-WEST LIFE | LONDON LIFE



HABITATS AND COMMUNITIES



Copyright © 1911 by the McGraw-Hill Book Co.

Illustrated by