

# Winter Treasures Teacher Manual



## Appendix 3

These pages are masters for the activity sheets to be used as follow-through review for key ecological concepts that the students experienced on the trip.

- *The Story of the Shape-Shifters*: This is the written version of the story of the shape shifters that the Lead Guide tells upon meeting the class for the first time at the park. This page also asks students to write their own story about shape shifters in nature.
- *How Can We Help Wild Creatures* (Review of Human Connections Activity): This page provides information on the problems faced by endangered species and what students can do to help.
- *Creatures in Danger?* (Review of Endangered Creatures Activity): This page provides information about regional endangered species and briefly reviews the concept of home/habitat as a place where a creature can meet its needs. Students are to write a letter about a creature's home from a creature's perspective.

# The Story of the Shape Shifters

Long ago, in another time, the shapes in nature did not stay in one place. They were alive and could change. Can you imagine being a tree one day and changing to a bush the next day? The shape shifters liked to change shapes because they knew people liked looking for them. They loved to bring smiles to people's faces by changing shapes from day to day. There was always a hide and seek game between the people and the shape shifters.

Many years passed and most people stopped going out to explore in nature. They forgot that the shapes were alive. The shape shifters became sadder and quieter the longer they went without playing. Finally the shape shifters couldn't move at all and became stuck as shapes in nature.

One shape shifter named Epash can still move because Epash found children to play with over many years. Epash is very shy. Many people have seen Epash but they thought it was only a snow drift, or a tree, or maybe a bird. You may have seen Epash! But winter is a hard time for Epash because some people think it is too cold to explore in nature and Epash gets lonely and sad. Epash is a member of an endangered species and needs a shape shifter friend.

So Epash wrote to your class and asked for you to help find the shape shifters who were lost and stuck in nature.



On a neat winter day you went to visit Epash in a beautiful park. You met a guide and you went out into the forest on a treasure hunt and discovered all kinds of wonderful shapes. Can you remember what you found?

Everyone hoped that you could bring a second shape shifter back to life by finding lots of shape treasures and enjoying nature. But then you and the guide realized that it takes more than good feelings to bring back a shape shifter. All creatures need a home that has good food, air, water and shelter. In recent years people have been taking away homes from creatures by using land and polluting food, air, and water. So you are doing projects to help. Right before your eyes, Deen, a second shape shifter, came to life and thanked you for all creatures.

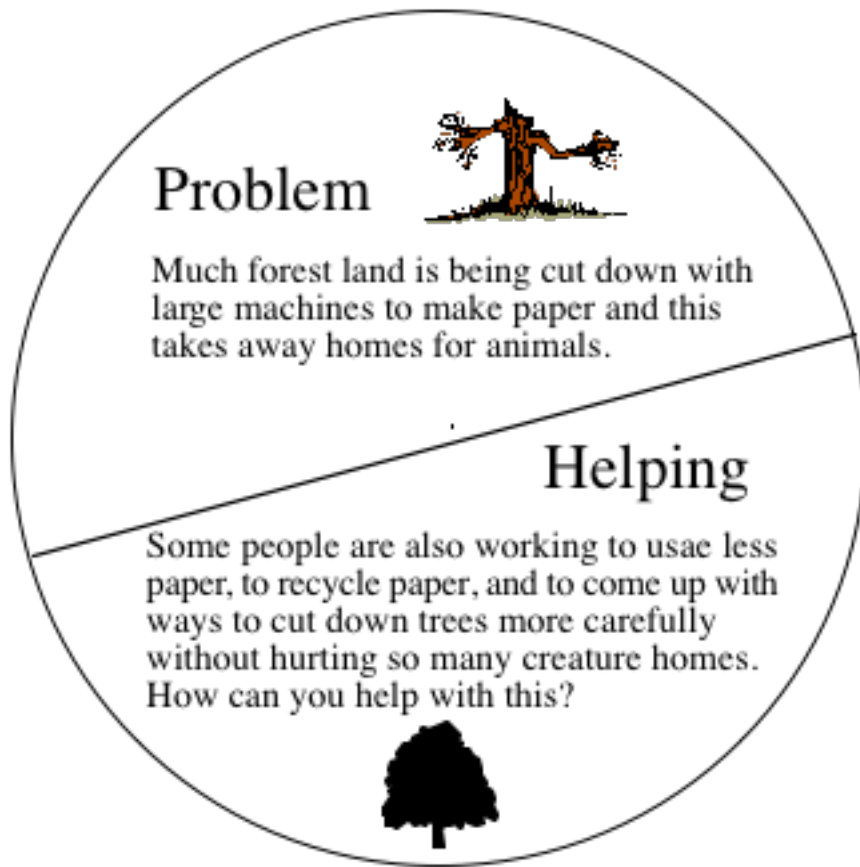
Epash will be happy if more people go out to explore and have fun in nature. We also need to help all creatures to have good food, clean air, fresh water, and good homes. So if you are out in nature and think you see a bird wink at you, or a tree wave its branches at you, maybe it is Epash or another shape shifter!

*Try writing a story and drawing a picture about a shape shifter in nature on another piece of paper! What will this shape shifter be called?*

# How Can We Help Wild Creatures

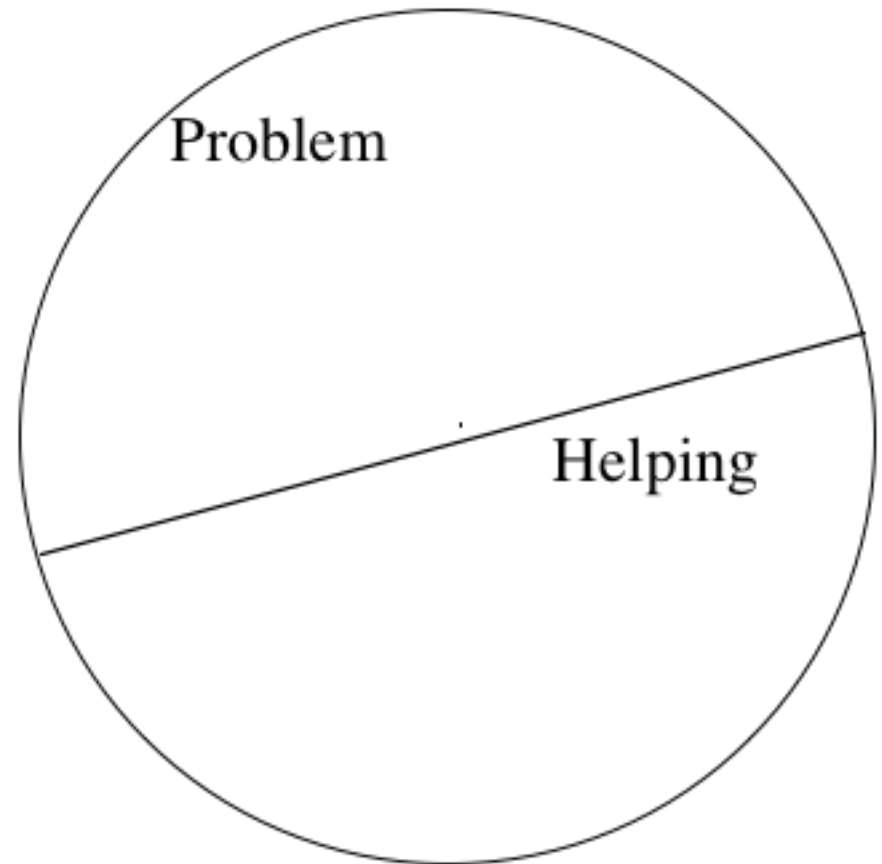
## People Cause Problems...

People are causing most of the problems for creatures that are losing their homes and becoming less in number. Remember a good home means having good food, clean air, fresh water, and a safe place to live.



## ... But People Can Help

Think of one creature and write down one or two ways people cause problems for that creature. Then write down one way you and other people can work to help that creature. Maybe you could start helping now.



# Creatures in Danger?

Many types of creatures are fewer in number now than they used to be years ago. A number of creatures who live in Atlantic Canada are endangered species. This means there are very few of this creature left and they may disappear from the earth forever and become extinct.

The main problem for these creatures is that people have changed things so that there are not good homes left for them. These creatures can not find good food, water, air, and safe shelter. Some people are working hard to help them. Maybe you could learn more about one endangered species and share what you learn with other people? Here are a few of the creatures...



## Letter from a Cougar



Dear Friends,

I am an Eastern Mountain Cougar and there are very, very few of us left in Eastern Canada. I hope you care about me. I am a beautiful wild creature and this was always my home, long before there were lots of people. Now there are no good homes left for me.

Did you know that I also play an important role in nature because of what I eat. I help control the number of rabbits, mice, and other small creatures so that there are not too many of them. You depend on the balance in nature to live just like I do. So you need all of the creatures just as much as I do.

Some people used to think I was dangerous but I never bother people. In fact, I am scared of people and I do not like to live near them. One reason I am endangered is that there are few big wild places in Nova Scotia left where I can live away from people.

So think of me when you help to protect wild land.

Take Care,  
The Eastern Mountain Cougar



What would other endangered species say if they could write. Try writing a letter for one type of wild plant or animal to explain to other people why the creature is important and what they can do to help it. Write the letter as if you were the creature and sign the creature's name at the bottom.