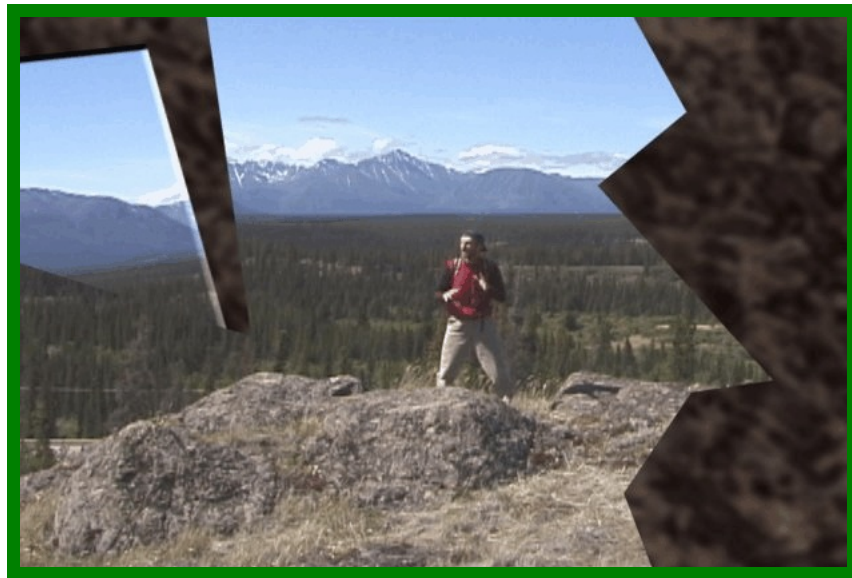


Ernie's Earth

Room to Roam

~ Humans and Other Species and Space ~

Educator's Guide for the 3 part Video



This guide was made possible with support from:



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The activities are designed to complement the video “Ernie’s Earth- Room to Roam”.

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EDUCATOR INFORMATION

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The Philosophy of [Room to Roam](#)

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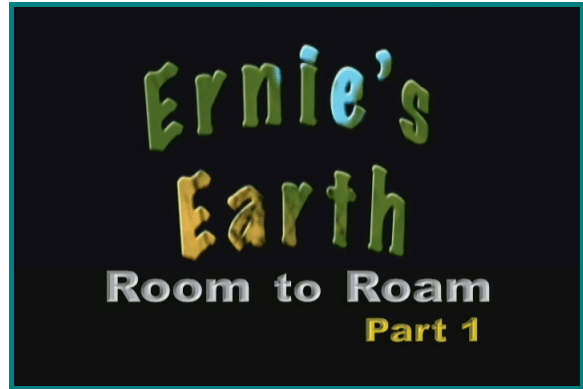
Relating the Video to Teachable Moments

[Curricula](#)

How the Video fits into your Region

[Lesson Map](#)

How the Video fits into your Classroom



INTRODUCTION

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Ernie's Earth - Room to Roam is about how human land uses impact species survival. A land use is any use of land: industry, roads, homes, gardens, trails- anything where human needs affect nature. Behind these impacts is a pervading attitude that species can go “somewhere else”. In addition, there is a sense that any given land use only affects the immediate area and can be assessed on its own. This ignores the cumulative effects of all land uses and the imperative that species need healthy natural spaces (sometimes large ones) in which they can get food, water, and shelter. The culprit attitude is the *Myth of Superabundance*, which is the belief that there is unlimited natural space (and so my land use is OK right here). But this is simply not the case. Our inability to see the impacts we have, or could have, cause many of our environmental problems. Humans are pretty good at championing benefits, but not so diligent at recognizing impacts.

Of course we do need to use the land. It's not about abandoning land use. But it is about recognizing how many other species use the land that we want to use, valuing that, and thinking critically and creatively about how to accommodate all needs. What are other species to us?

Whether we see species as a source of food, a medicinal resource, or just a spectacle, they are also arguably a vital link in a biological web of which we are a part and which no one can truly yet fully comprehend !

In addition to land uses, it's our individual lifestyles that also play roles in how land is used in far off places. World trade, supply and demand, transportation, and energy are all intertwined into an array of factors that can end up manifesting solutions as problems and problems as solutions, depending entirely on the context. For instance, recycling is a great idea compared to dumping garbage, but less of a solution compared to reducing the amount we consume in the first place. Similarly, limiting a city's footprint in area reduces the need for commuting, but greater concentration of people means the city has to function well. We are not looking for ultimate solutions to everything, just an acknowledgment that our current way of operating threatens healthy natural spaces and solving even tiny pieces of the puzzle starts with shifting our attitude.

Hence we call on the intelligence, creativity, vision, and dedication of agile minds to come to terms with the problem - attitude- and resolve to take stock in what is in our best interest.

LESSON DESIGN

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The lessons in this guide are designed to inspire critical and creative observations and thinking using a variety of approaches. Each lesson provides background information for educators and options for adapting the lesson for your region, grade level, students needs, and intensity. Enthusiasm and time are relative and the activities take this into account.

The Lessons are grouped by the Part of the video:

Part One: "The Mythic Mind Game"

<u>Video Chapters</u>	<u>Lessons</u>
Species in Danger	111: A Rainforest Mobile
Space	121: Active Space Games
Urban Sprawl	131: How Can Our Cities Grow Smarter?
Myth of Superabundance	141: Land Use Inventory
Cities	151: A Diorama of Your Ideal Community
Land Uses	161: The Boreal Canoe Trip
All Chapters	171: Crossword Puzzle

Part Two: "What does it have to do with *me*?"

<u>Video Chapters</u>	<u>Lessons</u>
Extinctions	211: Species at Risk
Green Mapping	221: Making a Green Map®
Ecological Footprints	231: Our Carrying Capacity
Calculate Eco-Footprints	241: How Much Nature Do You Use?
	242: How Much Water Do You Use?
Reduce Eco-Footprints	251: Eco-Footprints and Health
	252: Where Does My Food Come From?
All Chapters	261: Crossword Puzzle

Part Three: “What does it have to do with *us*?”

Video Chapters

Midnight Sun

Inuvik Greenhouse

My Cells Know

Protecting Space

Yellowstone to Yukon

Y2Y Walk

All Chapters

Lessons

311: PhotoVoice

321: Your Own Garden

331: How Connected Are You to Nature?

332: Nature's Artistic Expressions

341: Protected Areas Strategy (PAS)

342: Who's This Park For?

351: A Mountain's Poetry

361: The Trans Canada Trail

371: Crossword Puzzle

We recommend screening the entire show, or Part One **and either** Part Two or Three, so there is context, and then selecting exercises relevant to your needs.

The Lessons are coded with three digits:

Lesson 332 means: Part 3, Chapter 3 in that part, Exercise 2

The DURATION of each lesson is an estimation. It will depend on your class, subject, and the length of your periods.

The ADAPTING THE EXERCISE sections help you to consider variations which could extend or curtail the exercise. Mix and match as you like. Consider using these options to meet the diverse individual needs of your students.

ASSESSMENT

Most of the exercises conjure critical thinking and analysis of situations. To fulfil evaluative objectives, we supply samples of assessment rubrics for your use or adaptation. Of course you are free to apply more rigorous evaluations pertaining to content if you wish. The student self-assessment may help students to ‘own’ their learning and recognize the skills they develop.

THE INTERNET

Many of the activities rely on the use of the internet, if not for students, then certainly for educators. The web is a resource because many of the issues in **Room to Roam** relate to situations in flux; statistics change, initiatives evolve, news happens. Therefore, the usefulness of printing and supplying some of these resources would render the material out-of-date rather quickly. Where practical, documents are provided for your use with students. Feel free to adapt the exercises as you see fit as the access to the internet varies for your students.

The LESSON MAP indicates the relevance of each exercise to different subjects and grades.

[CURRICULA LINKS](#)

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The style of **Ernie's Earth** is to take one large idea, in this case- “the impacts of human land use” and explore the threads that play into that idea. It is a holistic approach rather than studying subjects in components.

Ernie does not follow any one curriculum, but touches a great deal on several subjects which appear throughout various curricula in various regions. **Room to Roam** is a salient example of applications in the real world, complete with the intricacies of dealing with many views of many people, not the least of which will be your students.

The film is primarily targeted at grades 6-10 but teachers tell us that they've stretched the film in either direction with great results. Some of the concepts are advanced, but Ernie takes the time to explain them thoroughly and candidly as a spring board for you to take it further in your own context.

The video and exercises flourish in social science, environmental science, and geography. Connections to other subjects accent the holistic design.

The video is relevant to many discussions on environment, resources, impacts, diversity, problem-solving, and conservation. Below are some key course units from each province's curriculum to which the video can apply. The list may not be complete. Adapt as you see fit.

Curricula	Units
<u>BC/Yukon</u>	
Social Studies 5/6/7	applications to social studies (research & analysis & presentation)
Social Studies 8	applications to social studies (Environment: geography/land uses)
Social Studies 10	applications to social studies (Environment: stewardship, sustainability)
Science 6	Diversity of Life
Science 7	Ecosystems
Science 8	Diversity
	Social Issues
	Global Ecosystems

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Alberta/NWT

Social Studies 5	The Land, Histories and Stories
Social Studies 6	Citizens Participating in Decision-Making
Social Studies 10	Perspectives on Globalization
Science 7	Interactions & Ecosystems
Science 9	Biological Diversity
Science 10	Energy Flow in Global Systems
Science IOP 16/26	Understanding Our Environment

Saskatchewan

Social Studies 5	Interdependence <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Canadian Resources & Industries
Social Studies 6	Interdependence <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Different Points of View- Global Village- Meeting Needs & Wants- Links Between People & The Environment
Social Studies 7	Maps and the Earth Location <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Human-Environmental Interactions & Relationships
Science 5	Communities and Ecosystems
Science 6	Ecosystems
Science 7	Energy in our Lives Basics of Life Saskatchewan- The Land Renewable Resources in Saskatchewan Resource Use
Science 8	Adaptation and Succession
Science 9	Saskatchewan- The Environment Risks and Limits Diversity of Life
Science 10	Life Science- Sustainability of Ecosystems

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Manitoba

Social Science 5	Life in Canada Today
Social Science 7	Spaceship Earth
Science 5-8	Science, Technology, Society, and the Environment

Ontario

Social Science 3	Urban and Rural Communities
Social Science 4	Canada's Provinces Territories and Regions
Social Science 6	Canada's Links to the World
Geography 7	Themes of Geographic Inquiry
	Natural Resources

Canadian

& World Studies 9 & 10	Interdependence, Environment, Sustainability, Natural Patterns, Cause & Effect, Change and Continuity, Human and Natural Systems
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Science 4	Habitats and Communities
Science 6	Diversity of Living things
Science 7	Interactions with Ecosystems

Quebec (English)

Secondary	Cycle 1 - The Living World Ecology 114
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Atlantic Canada

Social Science 7	Interdependence People, Place, and Environment
Social Science 9	Atlantic Canada in the Global Community Interdependence
Science 4	Life Science: Habitats and Communities
Science 6	Life Science: Diversity of Life
Science 7	Life Science: Interactions with Ecosystems
All Grades: Outcome	Stewardship

Nunavut

Social Studies 7	The Circumpolar World
Science 7-9	Life and the Environment
Science 15	Ecology
Science 25	Environmental Disruptions to Living Systems
Environmental Studies 35	

LESSON MAP

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Please use this map as a guide and feel free to apply the concepts and exercises where and how you see fit.

	Social Science	Science	Art	Math	English	History	Health	Phys. Ed.	Gr. 6-8	Gr. 9-10
Part One										
111 A Rainforest Mobile	✓	✓	✓						✓	✓
121 Active Space Games	✓	✓					✓	✓	✓	
131 How Can Our Cities Grow Smarter?	✓				✓					✓
141 Land Use Inventory	✓						✓		✓	
151 A Diorama of Your Ideal Community	✓		✓						✓	✓
161 The Boreal Canoe Trip	✓	✓	✓			✓			✓	✓
171 Crossword	✓				✓				✓	✓
Part Two										
211 Species at Risk	✓	✓			✓					✓
221 Green Mapping	✓								✓	✓
231 How Much Nature Do You Use?	✓			✓					✓	✓
232 How Much Water Do You Use?	✓	✓		✓					✓	✓
241 Eco-footprints and Health	✓						✓		✓	✓
251 Where Does My Food Come From?	✓		✓	✓					✓	✓
261 Crossword	✓				✓				✓	✓
Part Three										
311 Photovoice	✓		✓		✓				✓	✓
321 Your Own Garden	✓	✓		✓			✓		✓	✓
331 How Connected Are You To Nature?	✓						✓		✓	
332 Nature's Artistic Expressions	✓		✓				✓		✓	✓
341 Protected Areas Strategy	✓	✓			✓	✓				✓
342 Who's This Park For?	✓	✓	✓						✓	
351 Mountain Poetry	✓		✓		✓				✓	✓
361 The Trans Canada Trail	✓					✓			✓	✓
371 Crossword	✓				✓				✓	✓

