



## EXTRA CHALLENGE ACTIVITIES

(Try these with a Parent or Teacher)

### Weed Population Explosion

A new weed has invaded the Okanagan-Similkameen. If the weed's population grows by a factor of 12 each year and our regions habitat can support 3 weed plants per  $m^2$ , how many years will it take for the new weed to cover the Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen = 10,400  $km^2$ ? Start with 1 plant. How long will it take for the weed to cover your property or schoolyard? How can you help stop the weed from spreading?

### Native or Not?

Explore your local plant community. Collect plants, research their history and determine if they are native or introduced?

### What's in Your Soil?

Fill a jar  $\frac{1}{2}$  full with soil from your garden or school yard. Top with water, close and shake. Set aside for several hours to let the mixture settle. Organic matter and seeds will float on the surface. Germinate the seeds and see if you've got weeds.

### Weed Invaders

How do weeds compete with native plants? Set up a competition experiment. Pot 1: Plant seeds of a fast germinating grass (barley, oats, rye). Pot 2: Plant seeds of an annual flower. Pot 3: Plant grass and flowers together. Monitor the pots as seeds germinate and grow. Which set of flowers is healthier? Why? Hint: which set has more access water and nutrients? Look at the roots! (Note: This is how cheatgrass competes with our native grasses and wildflowers!)