

Kootenai River Valley Watershed Studies

A Year-Long Interdisciplinary Theme

Considerations:

1. Addressing standards in many subjects
2. Conducting field trips in Boundary County within the school day (Mon. - Thurs. 8:05 a.m. - 3:50 p.m.)
3. Involving multiple programs
 - GLOBE - Global Observations to Benefit the Environment (using scientific protocols and technology, participating in a global community of scientists)
 - EIC - Environment as the Integrating Context
 - using local environment
 - interdisciplinary
 - multi-age
 - developing concepts through experience, hands-on
 - group skills
4. Differentiated instruction = addressing needs of different kinds of learners; allowing students to make choices
5. Personal passion

Kootenai River Valley Watershed Studies Boundary County

Guiding Questions

1. What is a watershed?

- Develop a class definition
- View pictures of local + worldwide watersheds

2. What does the watershed have to do with us?

- Investigate how our resources + lifestyles are shaped by the Kootenai River watershed
 - economic (timber + mining)
 - recreational
 - water resources
 - homes
 - aesthetic appeal
- Hazards including recent local flooding

3. What is our watershed like?

- Geography - basic map skills + tracing Kootenai R. from B.C. to Pacific O.
- Climate - water cycle, snow depth, SNOTEL data
- Biology - environmental studies, life cycles, food web
- Human history - Kootenai Tribe, settlement based on resources

4. How did our watershed come to be the way it is?

- Geology and human modifications
- Students will develop concepts while constructing a timeline of watershed history. This will be accomplished through a series of field trips and activities.