

How the Forest Helps the Fish

Grade 4

Take this brochure along with you on the trail. It will help you locate activity stations and remind you about key points for each activity.

Theme

Activities in this excursion are designed to provide clues so students can answer the question "how does the forest help the fish?"

Activities

1. Waken Your Senses

Make a circle, and feel that tingly feeling through all the senses. Students will need all their senses to collect useful observations.

- Snake Field (few snakes found here)
- 5 min
- no materials required

2. Shade Stop

Ask, "What is different here?" Students use their senses to answer and so find clues about how the forest helps the fish. They then briefly discuss what would happen if the forest was removed.

Key Point: The forest provides shade and quiets air movement. It's cooler and moister.

- under the trees just beyond Snake Field
- 5 minutes
- no materials required



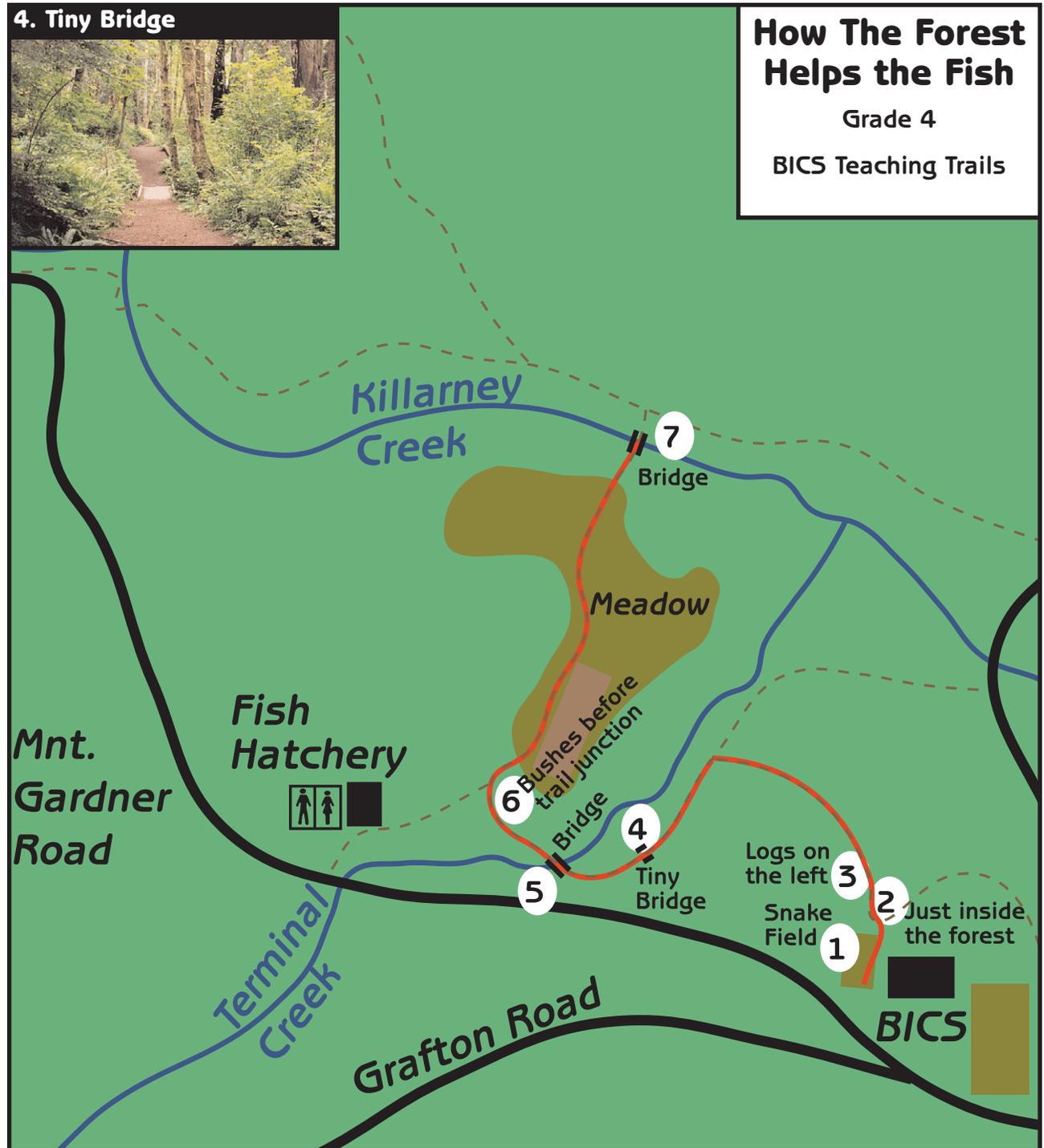
4. Tiny Bridge



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3. Waterfinger

Students participate in making a fun winter rainstorm, then search for last winter's rain with their Waterfinger, and so find more clues. Again briefly discuss what would happen if the forest was removed.



Key Point: The forest holds on to winter rain and releases it slowly so creeks flow year round for fish to live in.

- logs to left of trail before downhill
- 15 minutes
- no materials required

4. Water Shedding



Key Point: The downhill trickle of water from an area is a watershed, and you can see and hear it.

- mini bridge at giant cedar stumps
- 5 minutes
- no materials required

A quick sensory stop. Wake the sense of hearing and listen—can you hear the water shedding?

5. Where's the Mud?

Another brief stop. Students use their eyes to collect another clue, then discuss results of forest removal.

Key Point: The forest holds on to soil so that the water is clear of mud and fish can breathe.

- on the Terminal Creek bridge
- 5 minutes
- no materials required



6. Dinner is Served

Bushes shaken over fabric squares yield a harvest of insects. How do these clues help to answer the big question, and what if the forest was removed or changed?

Key Point: The forest helps fish by providing food.

- salmonberry bushes after you cross the bridge
- 20 minutes
- fabric "dinner napkins"



7. Fishwatching

Students stalk like herons onto the bridge, then point to fish they see. Last chance to gather clues to the big question, and to discuss effects of forest changes or removal.

Key Point: The forest provides shelter for young fish in the form of logs, branches and root masses.

- Killarney Creek or Terminal Creek bridge
- 10 minutes
- no materials required

Fishwatching Hints:

- Baby salmon are camouflaged.
- Unfocus your eyes to catch movement.
- If sunny, scan the bottom for shadows.
- Look near bank overhangs and logs and branches.



Trail Map and Focus Sheet

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