

Omni Theater Educator Resource

Fort Worth Museum of Science and History

FILM OVERVIEW

The Great Bear Rainforest takes students into one of the largest intact temperate rainforests on Earth, located along the rugged Pacific coast of western Canada. The film follows the remarkable journey of wildlife filmmaker Ian McAllister as he explores this rich ecosystem, home to iconic species like grizzly bears, wolves, and the rare white “spirit bear.” Through sweeping aerial footage and intimate animal encounters, students will discover how this coastal rainforest supports an incredible diversity of life.

Throughout the film, students learn how the rainforest’s health depends on the delicate connections between land, water, and wildlife. Salmon play a central role, carrying ocean nutrients upstream and helping sustain the entire forest food web—from bears and wolves to towering cedar trees. The film also highlights the important stewardship of Indigenous communities who have protected this region for generations, modeling how people and nature can work together for long-term conservation.

By the end of the film, students are encouraged to think about the importance of protecting ecosystems and biodiversity around the world. The Great Bear Rainforest invites viewers to reflect on how individual and community actions can help preserve wild places for the future. Teachers may wish to prompt students to look for examples of adaptation, interdependence, and conservation as they watch.



CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS

- Supports TEKS on ecosystems, food webs, and interdependence of organisms (e.g., Grades 3-5 Life Science).
- Reinforces concepts of environmental adaptation and the flow of energy through food chains and food webs.

For more educator resources & classroom activities, visit:

<https://greatbearrainforestfilm.com/#educators>



TEKS:

K: 12A, 12B

1ST: 12A, 13A

2ND: 12A, 12B, 13B, 13C

3RD: 12A, 12B

4TH: 12B, 13B

5TH: 12, 12A, 12C

6TH: 12A, 12B

7TH: 12A, 12B

8TH: 12B, 12C

High School Biology- 13A, 13B, 13C, 13D

Extension ideas for teachers:

- After the film, have students compare the Great Bear Rainforest ecosystem to a Texas ecosystem (such as a coastal marsh, piney woods forest, or prairie).
- In small groups, students create a simple Venn diagram or T-chart identifying producers, consumers, predators, prey, and key environmental features in each ecosystem. Then, students discuss how energy flows through both systems and how organisms depend on their habitats.
- Ask students to propose one way Texans can help protect local habitats, connecting conservation themes from the film to their own community.



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