

Division of Education Promotional Video Text

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Welcome to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources' Division of Education!

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We develop Illinois-specific supplemental resource materials and programs for teachers that use the Illinois Learning Standards as their foundation. Materials and programs are available for all grade levels.

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Our supplemental resources include the popular posters of the Illinois Flora, Fauna and Culture Series.

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Covering a variety of topics, activity books contain basic information as well as student assignments. Spanish-language versions are available for most of the activity books.

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Prairie Primer and Forest Ecology are the newest additions to the activity book series.

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Five sets of resources cards provide an image and basic information about more than 300 types of Illinois' organisms, rocks, minerals and fossils.

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A poster accompanies each set of resources cards, providing suggestions for using the cards to supplement your curriculum.

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Five supplemental teaching units provide educator support in a variety of ways.

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Kids for Trees is a basic unit on trees and tree products for grades prekindergarten through three. It contains lesson plans, student activities, two videos and more resources. This unit is available in CD-ROM and online formats.

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Wild Mammals of Illinois can provide you with lesson plans, videos, mammal sounds and many other materials for teaching about mammals in grades kindergarten through six. All information is accessible online.

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Illinois Birds offers lessons, a video and more resources, including the *One Bird—Two Habitat* unit on Neotropical migratory birds. Available online only, this unit targets grades kindergarten through six.

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The *Aquatic Illinois* unit is currently being revised. Lessons, video podcasts, frog calls and many other resources are included. *Aquatic Illinois* is suitable for grades five through nine. It is presented in an online format.

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Targeted to grades five through 10, *Illinois Biodiversity* contains the *Illinois Biodiversity Basics* lessons as well as the *Illinois Biodiversity* video and its associated activities. This unit is available in CD-ROM and online formats.

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The *Biodiversity of Illinois* CD-ROM series and *Exploring Illinois' Natural Resources* DVD are also offered to Illinois teachers.

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The *Biodiversity of Illinois* CD-ROMs are field guides to more than 1,000 species in the state and include more than 3,000 images. They are networkable, searchable and PC and Mac compatible.

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These CD-ROMs provide life history information, range maps and endangered or threatened status.
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The five videos on the *Exploring Illinois' Natural Resources* DVD are suitable for projection to a class.
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The *Biodiversity of Illinois* CD-ROM series and *Exploring Illinois' Natural Resources* DVD are available by written request on school letterhead.

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Chronic wasting disease is a prion disease that is present in Illinois' white-tailed deer herd. The *Prying into Prions* unit contains lessons, a video and supplemental information for high school teachers who want to incorporate a current issue into their curriculum. It is presented on a DVD and is correlated to the Illinois Learning Standards.

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The ENTICE program offers teacher training on a variety of topics at locations statewide and online. Continuing Professional Development Units, lessons and resources are provided.

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All registration occurs online. There is a small registration fee. You can access the schedule and registration at <https://www.enticeworkshops.com>.

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Workshop topics for the 2011-2012 school year include avian ecology, butterflies, invasive plants, urban wildlife,

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effects of climate change on Illinois plants, raptors, prions and chronic wasting disease, tracks, scats and habitats,

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microscopic organisms, biodiversity basics, pollinators and fossils. Seven workshops will be offered online.

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Five online courses for graduate credit are offered through the University of Illinois at the Urbana-Champaign and Springfield campuses. These courses are designed to provide teachers with a general introduction to the biodiversity of the state.

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Looking for funding? The *Illinois Schoolyard Habitat Action Grant* is a competitive grant program offering up to \$1,000 per teacher or youth program leader for the development of wildlife habitat on the school grounds or other public place. The application deadline is November 30, 2011. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Partners for Fish and Wildlife program, the Jadel (pronounced juh-dell) Youth Fund and the Daniel F. and Ada L. Rice Foundation all provide funding for the program. Grants are provided on a reimbursement basis.

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Illinois Biodiversity Field Trip Grants are funded by donations from the Independence Tube Corporation in Chicago and the Daniel F. and Ada L. Rice Foundation in Skokie. Teachers may receive up to \$500 to take their students on a field trip to study the natural heritage in Illinois. The application deadline is January 31, 2012. The field trip must be scheduled in the time period between receipt of the grant award and December 31, 2012. Grants are provided on a reimbursement basis.

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Resources trunks are self-contained units that include hands-on materials, equipment, field guides, lessons and many other items to help you teach about the topic. Ten topics are available. Materials are correlated to the Illinois Learning Standards and/or the Illinois Early Learning Standards.

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Illinois Trees contains items for use from grades prekindergarten through 12. Tree cookies, lumber samples, forestry careers DVDs, a plant press and a clinometers are some of the featured items.

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Illinois Birds, for grades prekindergarten through eight, features plush birds that sing, a bird song CDs, replica feet and bills, replica eggs and replica skulls.

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The *Illinois Wild Mammals* trunk is designed for students of grades prekindergarten through eight and contains pelts, skulls, replica scat and replica tracks, among other items.

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People and Animals from Illinois' Past provides resources to teach about Native Americans and Ice Age mammals that once lived in what is now Illinois. Information and activities about Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site are featured components of this trunk for grades prekindergarten through six.

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Encourage students of grades prekindergarten through six to learn about invertebrates with the *Illinois' Insects and Spiders* trunk. Equipment for capturing and observing insects and spiders is included as are insect models, field guides and many other resources.

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Are you teaching about Illinois? This trunk is the perfect compliment. Samples and images of Illinois' state symbols are among the contents. This trunk is targeted to grades kindergarten through six.

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The *Aquatic Illinois* trunk for grades five through nine includes sampling equipment, a turtle shell, mussel shells and many more resources.

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Illinois Prairies, for grades four through eight, features pioneer and ecological aspects of this once plentiful habitat.

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Fossil molds and fossil specimens are part of the *Illinois Fossils* trunk for grades seven through 10.

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Illinois' Invasive Species trunk contains specimens, lessons, photographs, books and other resources for use with students in grades seven through 12.

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Trunks are available for loan from locations statewide. Visit <http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/education> then select "Items for Loan" to find a link to each trunk's Web page. There you will find the content check list as well as the contact information for the lending sites. A two-week loan period is recommended.

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Our new *Field Trip Pack* is designed to encourage nature exploration by early childhood students. It is full of hands-on tools to help children discover the riches of their environment. Educator resources provide suggestions for incorporating nature-related topics into the curriculum. The packs are available for loan from more than 110 lending sites in Illinois.

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Access a wealth of resources through the IDNR Web page. You can find upcoming events through the calendar feature, a monthly update of educational information and interactive student pages among many other items of interest.

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Earth Day in the Parks events are held annually in April and May at participating Illinois state parks. Students are given the opportunity to participate in natural resources stewardship activities such as removing invasive exotic plants, planting native trees and wildflowers, constructing and installing bird nesting boxes and building and installing fish attractors. Participants are chosen through an application

process. Applications are accepted starting January 1, and winners are drawn in early March. Students are encouraged to return to the park to see the results of their work.

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The list server is a free service for Illinois educators. Subscribe to receive email updates regarding workshops, grants, new materials and programs and other items of interest. Messages are sent about twice monthly. You can unsubscribe at any time.

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Visit the IDNR Division of Education's Web page to find SMARTBoard lessons on a variety of topics. These interactive files involve your students in learning and add a new dimension to natural resources lessons.

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Order or download educational materials from the IDNR Publications page. You'll find activity books, posters, books, brochures and other resources offered.

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Are you leery of taking your students on a field trip to a natural area? The new *Field Trip Tips* page can help you plan all aspects of your trip. Search for a state park, find its amenities and look at the topics that it can assist you in teaching about. Pre-, during- and post-trip activities are provided. You can also find IDNR resources that will supplement your field trip and basic information needed when taking students into the wild.

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Has a student ever brought a wild animal to your class? Have you ever collected a turtle shell to use in your teaching? Do you know the laws that apply to these situations? Teachers often come into contact with wildlife or wildlife remains, willingly or not, yet they receive little, if any, training about the possession of wildlife and wildlife remains. *Wildlife in the Classroom* will provide you with basic information that you need before you are placed in this situation. Access this document through the IDNR Division of Education's Web site at <http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/education>.

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Our new video podcasts offer another learning opportunity. Topics include frogs and toads, leaves and the large rivers of the state. A text file is available for the podcasts that contain an audio component, too.

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Podcasts from the IDNR Division of Education are available free through the iTunes store. We are on Facebook, too!

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All requests for CD-ROMs, DVDs and resources cards should be mailed to IDNR – Education, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702. Questions may be emailed to dnr.teachkids@illinois.gov.

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