

Desjardins NaturLogic Contest



2009-2010 Edition

Teacher's Guide

August 2009

Table of contents

	Page
Foreword	1
Contest objectives	1
What is ecology?	2
Why did Desjardins choose this subject?	2
Theme	2
A few informative sites	3
Activities	3
Suggested approach for participating schools and teachers	3
Contest rules	4

FOREWORD

Your Desjardins caisse and Musicenne the Bee, our school caisse ambassador, are presenting the “NaturLogic” contest for the sixth consecutive year.

As you already know, the educational concept of the school caisse was created more than 100 years ago by Alphonse Desjardins, founder of the caisses. Today, more than 1,200 schools in Québec and Ontario, in collaboration with their local caisse populaire, have implemented the school caisse to teach young people the value of saving their money.

Beyond this mission of savings education, the school caisse, along with its ambassador Musicenne, have another role. Their task is to promote the values of cooperation, which are individual and collective self-help and responsibility, democracy, equality, equity and solidarity. These are the same values held by the school community.

In order to create a lasting feeling of belonging to their school and their community among students, the school caisse hopes to offer them the means to practice the values of cooperation and to perceive the concrete results of their collective efforts in their school. That’s the cooperative difference!

And that is the challenge launched by Musicenne the Bee, with her “NaturLogic” contest!

CONTEST OBJECTIVES

- To help young people become familiar with the fundamental values of cooperation (individual and collective self-help and responsibility, democracy, equality, equity and solidarity) and experience concrete situations related to those same values.
- To support the school’s educational objectives.
- To stimulate students’ active participation in their school and community.

We should add that this contest rewards the class and teachers as a group, as opposed to individual students. Note that the choice of class outings as the reward is left to the discretion of the teacher responsible for the winning project.

The chosen area of development: ecology.

At each school year, a new theme based on ecology is proposed to the schools.

WHAT IS ECOLOGY?

Every individual has a duty to help protect natural resources. Human beings, animals, insects, birds, plants, and all forms of life have their essential role to play in the environment. To maintain the balance of life on our planet, we need to understand the interrelations among the different living beings that make up this marvellous yet fragile system.

Young students today are made increasingly aware by the schools of the ecological aspects of the various living systems and how each one is essential to protecting the environment. They are given every opportunity to study and understand the various ecosystems and are encouraged to recommend actions to preserve the planet for future generations.

WHY DID DESJARDINS CHOOSE THIS SUBJECT?

The purpose of the study of ecology is to understand the environment and adopt responsible attitudes to preserve it and ensure balanced and sustainable development. Reflecting on these topics gives students a hands-on opportunity to learn about the above-mentioned values, such as taking charge and personal and mutual responsibility and as well as solidarity.

Environmental protection is also a concern that is among Desjardins Group's priorities. Promoting the environment in our society and supporting the artisans of sustainable development are ways for us to put into practice the educational aspect of Desjardins' mission, starting with the youngest among us.

THEME

The theme proposed for the 2009-2010 contest is: **Helping animals hold on to their future!**

Throughout its long history, the Earth has sheltered many animal species, such as dinosaurs, western camels, woolly mammoths, swift foxes, belugas, passenger pigeons, and bald eagles. Ecologists are not certain about why some species become extinct. However, some of these animals have disappeared or are at risk of extinction due to lack of foresight on the part of humans. Some examples of this are the destruction or modification of natural habitats, overhunting or overfishing, poaching, global warming and pollution.

Being aware of our impacts, what are some examples of simple and concrete measures that each one of us can take to protect the fauna?

Young people can answer the question... in the **Desjardins "NaturLogic"** contest!

SUGGESTIONS FOR INFORMATIVE SITES

<http://education.mrnf.gouv.qc.ca/index.asp> (available in French only)

<http://www.rocler.qc.ca/cbarret/index.html> (available in French only)

http://www.ifaw.org/ifaw_canada_french/index.php

http://www.sararegistry.qc.ca/default_e.cfm

<http://www.quebecgeographique.gouv.qc.ca/approfondir/information/forets-faune-protection.asp>
(available in French only)

ACTIVITIES

In each participating class, the students must carry out a group project based on ecology, under the theme: **Helping animals hold on to their future!** The project can be any of numerous different things, such as: organize a conference, make a video, design a game, set up a kiosk, create an ad campaign, present a play, design a web page, etc.

Group projects that adhere to the theme and the directions will be examined by the jury.

SUGGESTED APPROACH FOR PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS AND TEACHERS

1. Brainstorm on the fauna issues theme and come up with project suggestions.
2. Hold a group session on values to practice when designing and carrying out the project.
3. Get a consensus on the kind of project to be carried out.
4. Assign jobs and responsibilities among students.
5. Project development and implementation.

CONTEST RULES

Desjardins Naturlogic Contest – 2009-2010 Edition



1. Length of contest

The contest is organized by the Fédération des caisses Desjardins du Québec. It takes place from September 8, 2009 to April 2, 2010.

2. Description of prizes

32 prizes worth a total \$6,900 will be awarded in May 2010, including:

Fifteen cash prizes of \$300, earmarked for a class outing or end-of-year activity, are divided as follows:

- 5 prizes awarded among projects submitted by kindergarten, and Grade 1 and 2 classes
- 5 prizes awarded among projects submitted by Grade 3 and 4 classes
- 5 prizes awarded among projects submitted by Grade 5 and 6 classes (and Grade 7 classes for Ontario schools)

One grand cash prize of \$600 for the *Jury's Favourite prize* for a class outing, selected among the fifteen winning projects.

Please note that a class cannot win more than one prize, except for the *Jury's Favourite prize*.

Prizes making up the “*Super Teacher*” awards

- Fifteen prizes of \$100 each awarded to the teachers responsible for the fifteen winning projects
- One vacation package worth \$300 awarded to the teacher responsible for the *Jury's Favourite prize* selected among the fifteen winning projects (choice of vacation packages)

3. How can you participate?

The teacher may sign up the class using the Participation Form¹ for that purpose and send it to the Fédération des caisses Desjardins du Québec before December 11, 2009. You can get the form from the person in charge of the School Caisse at your neighbourhood Desjardins caisse.

The teacher must then supervise the accomplishment of a class project of an ecological nature, whose theme is: **Helping animals hold on to their future!** In addition to putting into practice the values of cooperation, the project must have a significant impact on the life of the school and its community, or both.

It is then up to the teacher to complete the Project Summary form in which the project undertaken is described. The form must be sent to the Fédération des caisses Desjardins du Québec **no later than** April 2, 2010. Additional documents² (photographs, cd-roms, samples, video, etc.) may, if deemed helpful in understanding the project, be appended to this form. Please note that no document will be returned to the participating schools.

The projects submitted must have been accomplished between September 8, 2009 and April 2, 2010.

¹ This form is not a prerequisite for participation in the contest.

² Total shipment should not exceed 24" X 24" X 24".

4. Determination of winners

Winners will be chosen by jury based on the Project Summary form received no later than April 2, 2010.

The jury is the only body responsible for the selection criteria of the winning classes, as each member awards a grade to the projects in competition according to the following criteria:

1. The demonstration of putting cooperative values into practice: self-help, democracy, equality, equity and solidarity
2. Incorporation of the theme: **Helping animals hold on to their future!**
3. The originality and innovation of the project
4. The significance of accomplishments on the school's group experience or its community
5. The quality of the presentation

The jury has the power to rule on cases not provided for in the regulations. Its decisions are final and without appeal.

Those in charge of the School Caisse in Desjardins caisses will inform the teachers of the winning classes by telephone. Both parties will agree together on the way in which prizes will be presented, which must take place prior to May 14, 2010.

The announcement of winning classes will be made in the week of May 4, 2009 and the caisses will be faxed the list of prizes and vacation packages (*Super Teachers* prizes) for winning teachers. They must reveal the choices of winners before May 7, 2010.

5. Eligibility

The contest is aimed exclusively at elementary schools in Québec and Ontario that offer the School Caisse educational program. Participation will be verified before winners are officially announced.

All pupils of these schools may enter the contest, whether or not they are members of the School Caisse.

6. General

Prizes must be accepted as awarded and cannot be exchanged, substituted for another prize or transferred to another person. The contest organizers' decision to this effect is final and without appeal. All winning persons release the contest organizers from any liability in terms of any damage that could arise from accepting and using their prize.

The amounts paid out as class prizes shall be used only for a class outing or activity for the winning class.

By participating in this contest, all winning persons authorize the organizers to post their name on the Desjardins Web site www.desjardins.com/Teachers.

The winners consent to Desjardins Group or one of its constituents using their name for promotional purposes without additional compensation.

The persons participating in this contest acknowledge having read the contest rules and agree to comply with them.

The Fédération des caisses Desjardins du Québec reserves the right to terminate the contest if events beyond its control prevent it from continuing. In such case, it shall assume no liability for the discontinuation.