

# Smells Like Trouble in Great Slave Lake

## Age/Grade Range

- Age 5-12

## Group Size

- In pairs or small groups
- Up to 30 students

## Time

- Prep time: 30 minutes
- Set-up: 5-10 minutes
- Activity: 1 hr
- Time modifications available

## Materials

- Trouble in Great Slave Lake Story Handout
- Costumes (optional)

## Set-Up

Try to clear a large space where students will be able to gather in a large horseshoe formation and move around with the actions of the story.

## Delivery Tips

- By switching up the “characters” (animals and plants), you can easily focus the story on a specific theme or species.
- This version of the activity works well with kids as young as 5. The most enthusiastic age for the activity is between 7 and 12.
- For a group of kids aged 3-5, the story still works; however, it’s best not to divide them into groups. Do the actions for all the characters and have them copy after you.



NWT SCIENCE FOCUS

## Topics

- Ecology and Animals

## Objective

- Help students make connections between human actions, animals, and the environment.

Get them up and moving, and listening carefully to the story.





## Activity Directions

1. Gather round in a circle and divide the class into five groups: grasses, moose, black bears, 'Lovely Family' members and 'Stench family' members. Have them dress up if you have costumes.
2. Each group will be assigned an action, which can be anything active. They will have to listen carefully to the story to know when to do their action: "*When I say your name, you do the action I tell you to. Let's try it out. Black bear hop on one foot, moose do jumping jacks, etc.*"
3. This story is adapted from one that was originally put together by a Katimavik student.
4. The first 3 characters can easily be replaced by other animals/plants, depending on the theme of the session.
5. Tell the story. The kids listen for their characters in the story and do their actions. It works best if you are in somewhat of a circle so everyone can see all their fellow 'actors'.
6. The groups will often need prompting from you for their actions.
7. It's good to have a bit of a debrief after the story. Ask them what it was about and what we can learn from it about how human actions affect the animals and the environment. What kind of things can they do to help protect the water, land, and animals around them?

## Questions/Points of Discussion

1. Has anyone been out on Great Slave Lake?
2. What other kind of animals/ plants live in the lake or on the land around here?
3. Why can plants and animals get sick if the lake or land are polluted?
4. What are some things that pollute the lake?
5. What do you think we can do to protect the lake and the land around it?

## Print Outs

- Trouble in Great Slave Lake Story





## Smells Like Trouble in Great Slave Lake, Story:

This story takes place near a lovely lake, call Great Slake Lake. This is not any ordinary lake though! There is something very special about this lake. Can anyone guess why it's so special? It is special because we are standing right on it! Here beside Yellowknife. Because it's so near to us, it is directly affected by what we do.

Great Slake Lake and the land around it is a place that has lots of different types of plants and animals. **The grass by the shore is always swaying in the wind. The Moose are always eating the leaves off the bushes and the Black Bears are always eating berries.**

It is a beautiful sunny morning, and the lovely family is taking their daily walk. The Lovely's take the same route every day, and every day **they always stop to smell the flowers. And wave hello to the grasses, the moose and the bears.** In their own way, **the grasses, the moose, and the bears all wave back.** The Lovely family has lived here for as long as they can remember. Their parents lived here before them and their grandparents lived here before them and it goes on and on. Because of that this is a very special place to them. They always like to make sure the land and animals are taken care of. The Lovely family also has a very specific routine before they go to bed. **They go out and say goodnight to the grasses, and the grasses say goodnight back by swaying in the wind. The Lovely's wave goodbye to the moose and the bears, and the moose and the bears wave back.** Then they **all go to sleep and have good dreams.**

Little do they all know, that this night something unusual is going to happen. Tonight, while everyone else is sleeping, the Stench family is cooking up an evil plan. Very quietly, **they grab their bags of garbage, drive over to the lake in their big dirty car, sneak up to the shore... and dump their garbage in the water!** Great Slake Lake is now polluted! All that garbage will make the plants and animals very sick.

The next morning **the lovely family wakes up and goes out for their walk by the lake.** But what they see is very sad. **The grass looks all sick and shriveled up.** Now they are worried! They run over to where the moose usually are, **but the moose are looking very sick as well.** Next she goes to check on the **black bears. They look sick too.** They've even stopped eating berries!

The Lovely family is really sad. They try and think of what they can do to make the plants and animals healthy again. Finally, they think of a plan. That night, instead of going to bed, **they sneak out and hide behind some bushes near the lake** to see what will happen. Sure enough, the **Stench family drive up in their big dirty car** with more garbage to dump in the lake. **They sneak towards the shore....** And are about to dump their garbage in the water, when **the Lovely family jumps out of the bushes and yell "Aha!"** They explain that the Stench family shouldn't dump garbage in the lake, or even on land for that matter, because it makes the plants and animals sick. **(shake their fingers).**

The stench family feels very badly about what they have done and agree to come back first thing in the morning to help clean up the garbage. The next morning, as the **Stench family and the Lovely family are cleaning up the lake and the shore,** they can see the plants and animals getting healthier by the minute. **The grass starts growing taller and swaying in the wind. The moose start to happily eat the leaves on the bushes again, and the black bears go back to eating their berries.** Needless to say no one messed with Great Slave Lake again! The Stench family has learned their lesson and spent the rest of their lives teaching others how to help keep the water and this planet healthy. **THE END.**

