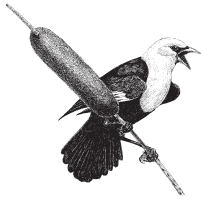


6. VOICES OF NATURE



KEY CONCEPT
Sing out for living beings that cannot
speak for themselves.



~~~~~ **Holly's Story** ~~~~~

I grew up in Vancouver on the wet West Coast, it has always rained a lot here, even in the summertime. We have cedar trees in our rainforests; cedars need a lot of water and that's why they like it here.

Cedar trees, and all other plants, need just the right amounts of sunshine and rain to thrive and grow well, and the rain and sunshine have to come at the right times of year.

In the past 20 years or so the weather patterns have been changing on the West Coast. Summers have been getting dryer, and this is hard on the Cedar trees. They need water during the summer when they do most of their growing. If they don't get enough rain in the summer, you can see their leaves start to turn red; this is called "red flagging". Cedars naturally have a small amount of red flagging every year; but when there is too much flagging, they can die.

Notice the trees in your watershed, in your area. Do you have deciduous trees with broad leaves, like maples? Do you have coniferous, or evergreen trees, like Red Cedar, Hemlock and Douglas Fir? What other kinds of trees grow in your neighbourhood? Do they look healthy?

All living things (including us!) need just the right amounts of sunshine and water to live. Too much sun, and we have drought. Too much rain, and we have floods.

This song is called "Voices Of Nature"; when you sing it, you are speaking up for things that don't have a voice. You are being a Voice Of Nature! You can help people to remember to think carefully and try to make good choices that help the Earth keep its balance of sunshine and rain.

