# AT HOME WITH NATURE: eLearning Resource | Suggested for: JUNIOR/ INTERMEDIATE (grades 4–8)

# LEARN ABOUT LICHENS

Lichens are living creatures all around us, but where do we find them? Watch the video to complete this package. Our lichen video can be found here: **facebook.com/TorontoConservation/videos** 

This package will teach you about what a lichen is, the story they can tell us about the environment, and how to identify some of the most common types. Print this document or grab a notebook and pencil to complete on your own!

### Activity 1: Air Quality

Look at the following images and decide which ones might have an impact on our quality of air. Try to think about why each one would impact air quality, and write whether it has a **positive impact** (i.e. cleans or prevents air pollution) or **negative impact** (i.e. creates pollution).





#### EATING EXCESSIVE AMOUNTS OF MEAT





#### Activity 2: Lichen Components

In the lichen video, we find out lichen is a special relationship between two organisms. Choose the two components a lichen might be comprised of.





## Activity 3: Lichen Structures

There are three different kinds of structures of lichen discussed in the lichen video. They are **crustose** (crusty), **foliose** (leafy), and **fruticose** (fruity). Label each image with the kind of structure each lichen has. Use the diagram below to help find your answers.



FRUTICOSE (FRUITY)



FOLIOSE (LEAFY)



**CRUSTOSE (CRUSTY)** 



NAME: BRITISH SOLDIERS STRUCTURE:



NAME: MAPLE DUST STRUCTURE:



NAME: COMMON GREEN SHIELD STRUCTURE:



NAME: CANDLEFLAME STRUCTURE:



#### Activity 4: Clean Air Habitat

Some types of lichen are more sensitive to air pollution. This is because lichen get their nutrients directly from the air! Draw a picture below to show where sensitive lichens would flourish (i.e. where air is clean and free of pollution). Next draw a picture to show where sensitive lichens may not survive (i.e. where air pollution is).

#### A PLACE WHERE SENSITIVE LICHENS WOULD FLOURISH

#### A PLACE WHERE SENSITIVE LICHENS MAY NOT SURVIVE