

Unit: Wildlife Habitat

Title of Activity: Wildlife Posters

Guiding Questions: What can we learn about wildlife that might live in our habitat? How are plants a key component for wildlife habitat? What plants should we include in our habitat restoration if we want to create habitat for specific wildlife?

Key Concepts

Grade levels: Middle School

Time:

Prep time:

Curriculum Area:

District Framework:

Prior Knowledge:

Developed by: Heidi Bohan

Materials: Wildlife lists for local region, wildlife research form, Wildlife color sheets master, field guides, research books, internet access, animal objects (furs, hairs, feathers, track replications, skulls, teeth, feeding sign, preserved or replica scat, etc.)

Teacher Provided: Internet access, Poster board, glue, markers, etc., color copies of wildlife

Brief Description of Activity: Students will research a specific wildlife species for its specific habitat requirements with a focus on habitat types, food sources, and shelter requirements, as well as key predators. Students will use these posters to assess the restoration site for suitability for their species, and specific habitat improvements that will encourage success for their species.

Preactivity anticipatory set: ‘What’s for Dinner’ and other wildlife habitat activities

Activity:

- Discussion: What wildlife species are present or should be present in our habitat restoration? (include amphibians, reptiles, insects, and birds, as well as mammals, including small mammals such as voles, shrews, moles, mountain beaver, rabbit etc.).
- How can we make our habitat satisfy the key requirements for specific wildlife species? What do we need to know in order to do this?
- Pick wildlife species. Use cards for a random selection of species (this ensures a spread of species to include less ‘glamorous’ species, which are actually more likely to be in the habitat. Optional: you can tell students that once they’ve completed one poster they can choose their own animal and create another.
- Show students the components they must include in their poster (see attached). It is important to be specific about plant species. If your animal is a carnivore it is important to extend the pyramid to show the food sources for their prey (i.e. rabbits eat grasses, barks and twigs from certain trees, etc).

Post Activity Question: What plants should we include in our habitat restoration? What other habitat features might we include (snags, thickets, etc.).

Thinking Skills:

Connections to State EALR’s

Science:

Writing:

Communications:

Geography:

Civics: