



# For Wildlife MS-HS Teacher's Guide

## Literature Suggestions

1. Buffalo Bird Girl, SD Nelson
2. A Wild Child's Guide to Endangered Species, Millie Marotta
3. Diary of a Young Naturalist, Dara McAnulty
  - Reading Response: General Critical Thinking Questions
    - How does litter impact wildlife?
    - What connections can you make between green space, wildlife populations, and communities combatting land, water, and air pollution?
    - What can you learn about environmental protection and conservation from other cultures?

## Student Page Activities

- Remind students of the four elements wildlife needs to survive/live.
- Discuss how animals build special homes as part of their habitats (such as beaver lodges, bird nests, fox dens). These homes provide cover from weather, protection from predators, and places to raise young, and some animals do not actually build special homes but use existing habitat features (coyotes, fish, deer).
- Students will play a guessing game and then create their own game--trying to match animals to their habitats.
  - Read aloud and show a few sample real estate ads from a newspaper or online to give students an idea of what they will be creating.
  - Read the make-believe examples on the page titled, Habitats for Sale, and ask them to guess which animals might answer each ad.
- Explain to students that they will create a classified ad describing an animal's habitat and/or home. Write animal names on slips of paper or find pictures of animals (such as squirrel, hedgehog, bat, bison, rat, whale, snake, owl, leopard, dolphin, duck, weasel, wolf, penguin, woodpecker, earthworm, spider, crab).



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## Student Page Activities Continued

- Working individually or in small groups (2-3), students choose an animal and create their own classified ad (blank page provided on the last page) in a way that would appeal to their animal, including appropriate food, water, cover, and a place to raise young without giving away the identity of the animal. Provide reference books/online resources to support their ad development.
- Create a list of all the animals students selected for their habitat ads, and display the list for all students to see. Each student or group will then read their classified ad aloud to the group, and the group will guess which animal goes with that ad. Discuss how some ads might fit more than one animal and how some animals might adapt to fit into a habitat that is not their ideal home.
- After everyone has had their turn, have each student draw the habitat he or she wrote about, including the animal, and post it in the classroom.
- Optional: After everyone has had their turn, have each student draw, digitally design, or create a model of the habitat they wrote about, including the animal, and post them around the classroom, library, or other shared spaces.
- Make social-emotional connections.
  - When you hear the word home, what memories or emotions come up for you?
  - Are animal and human homes created equally? Explain. How does this make you feel?

## Class Action

- Help wildlife by scheduling time to pick up litter on the school grounds or nature nearby (don't forget to recycle what can be recycled). Remember to use the [Clean Earth Challenge data collection form](#) to track what's collected. Use the online collection form or print the form and take it to your cleanup. Once complete either take a legible photo or scan as a PDF and email it to [cleanearthchallenge@nwf.org](mailto:cleanearthchallenge@nwf.org). Find other details here: <https://cleanearthchallenge.com/>.



# For Wildlife

## Habitats for Sale

### GREAT GRASSLANDS

Prime grassland is available in Africa. Loaded with antelope, springboks, zebras, and other tasty prey. Close to refreshing water holes and shady clumps of acacia trees. Lots of wide-open territories. Great for new pride. Call soon before this great buy is snatched up. (Answer: Lion)

### UNDERGROUND CASTLE

Tunnels available in the Smith family's backyard. Home to juicy earthworms and other tasty creatures. Loose, moist soil for easy tunneling to expand your space and no pesky cats in the neighborhood. This super backyard is available immediately. (Answer: Mole)