



Wildlife Habitat Checklist

Outdoor Classroom Field Journal Activity Lesson Plans & Resources

Online Lesson Plans & Resources: <https://www.alabamawildlife.org/oc-activity-habitat-checklist/>

Example Discussion Questions & Answers (online as an Interactive PowerPoint or PDF)

Q: What is a habitat?

A: *A habitat is the natural home or ecosystem where an animal lives. The animals in a specific habitat are adapted physically and behaviorally to their environment.*

Q: What are the major characteristics of habitats?

A: *Major characteristics that vary between different types of habitats are (1) geographical location, (2) climate/weather conditions, (3) geology and soil structure, (4) plant communities, and (5) animals.*

Q: What types of habitat could we find in Alabama?

A: *Forest – Woodland with canopy, understory & forest floor. – YES*

Temperate Forest – Forest with four seasons. – YES

Tropical Rainforest – Stays warm and wet all year. – NO

Desert – Hot and dry with few plants. – NO

Aquatic Habitat – YES. Freshwater (creek, river, pond, or lake) – YES / Saltwater (ocean) – YES

Grassland (meadow, glade or prairie) – Large areas with grasses, herbs and wildflowers but little to no trees. – YES

Wetlands – Areas with shallow standing water such as marshes, bogs or swamps. – YES

Polar Tundra – Land is covered by massive areas of ice and snow. – NO

Q: What do animals need in their habitat to survive?

A: *(1) Food, (2) Water, (3) Shelter/Cover from predators & bad weather, and (4) Places to Raise their Young*

Q: What if the habitat does not have enough resources? What if the habitat is damaged or destroyed?

A: *The animals may find the resources they need by expanding their territory. However, while searching for these resources, they risk death due to predation (from lack of cover) or vehicle collisions (if crossing roads).*

Q: If they cannot find the resources they need, will they all survive?

A: *No, the population will most likely decline due to (1) Starvation – if they cannot find enough food; (2) Sickness/Diseases – if they are hungry, dehydrated from lack of water, and weak; and (3) Low Reproduction - if they aren't healthy then they often cannot reproduce or the babies will not be healthy enough to survive.*

Q: Can a habitat provide a “home” for more than one species (or type) of wildlife?

A: *Yes, One habitat can provide the resources needed by numerous different species of insects, birds, amphibians, reptiles, and mammals.*

Q: How do the different animals share the resources and interact in the habitat?

A: *All of the organisms (plants and animals) in the habitat make up a system (an ecosystem) in which the organisms depend on each other.*

Q: Can we do anything to increase the resources available for local wildlife around our school?

A: *Yes, we can research what resources different wildlife species need to survive, and then try to add those resources to our school's campus and outdoor classroom. The more diverse the native plant species are in a habitat, then the greater the variety of wildlife species that will use the habitat.*

Q: What types of animals could we provide habitat for in our outdoor classroom?

A: *We could provide habitat for butterflies, song birds, lizards, frogs, bats & other critters.*

