



Wildlife Habitats & You

a Cascades Raptor Center Lesson





We are going to help a wildlife habitat thrive!

In the coming weeks we are going to look at an existing wildlife habitat and, as a class, do our best to help it thrive! We are going to do that by applying our knowledge of Ecology. So, you might be asking yourself....



What is Ecology?

Ecology is the study of the relationship between organisms (plants, animals, etc.) and with their physical surroundings.

A community of interacting organisms and their physical surroundings is called an ECOSYSTEM. The physical surroundings that fit with the needs of the community is the HABITAT.



What are some types of habitats?

There are many types of ecosystems in the world, here are a few of the types we might see in our area.

You can often tell what type of habitat a place is by the main feature. For instance, in grasslands the main feature is grass and in forests it's trees. Wetlands are places flooded with water most of the year and a riparian habitat is the area right next to a river or stream.



Grasslands



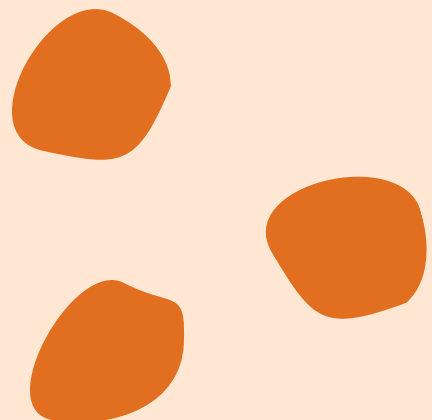
Wetlands



Forest



Riparian/River



What does a community need in their habitat?

A habitat must have everything a plant or animal needs to survive.

FOR A PLANT

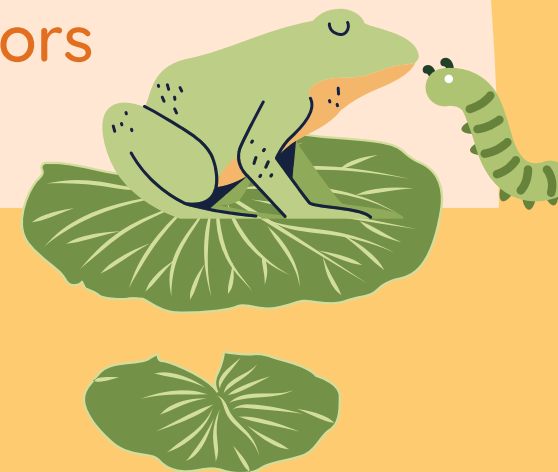
- Water and air
- Sunlight
- Healthy soil
- Diverse neighbors!
- Pollinators and other insects

FOR AN ANIMAL

- Water & air
- Food source
- Place to nest/raise young
- Hiding places/cover for animals with predators

WHICH OF THESE CAN WE HELP WITH?

What do you think?




Seatwork

What do you think about how we could help a habitat thrive?



Question 1: Using the list from the last slide, which of these elements could we help with? How?

Question 2: Do you have any ideas of what we could do that wasn't on the list?



Some things
we might
focus on...

SOIL HEALTH

Adding compost/nutrients

NATIVE PLANTS

Planting native plants or
removing invasive plants



DIVERSITY

Making sure we have lots
of plant types and species



COVER

Adding logs/rocks
for safe hiding places

NESTING SITES

Adding nest boxes
or nest material

REMOVING TRASH

Trash is not good
for wildlife!

Questions?

about ecology or this project?

