



School Program Name: Habitats
Name of Sanctuary: Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary
Grade Level: K-4
Location Options: Arcadia or Laughing Brook
Time: 3 hours
For more info: Arcadia@massaudubon.org or
413-584-3009

Program Description

Students will explore and compare three different habitats.

Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks

Framework: Science and Technology
Strand: Life Science

Learning Standards

Characteristics of Living Things

- PreK-2 Life Science #1: Recognize that animals (including humans) and plants are living things that grow, reproduce, and need food, air, and water.
- PreK-2 Life Science #2: Differentiate between living and nonliving things. Group both living and nonliving things according to the characteristics that they share.
- PreK-2 Life Science #3: Recognize that plants and animals have life cycles, and that life cycles vary for different living things.

Living Things and Their Environment

- PreK-2 Life Science #6: Recognize that people and other animals interact with the environment through their senses of sight, hearing, touch, smell, and taste.
- PreK-2 Life Science #7: Recognize changes in appearance that animals and plants go through as the seasons change.
- PreK-2 Life Science #8: Identify the ways in which an organism's habitat provides for its basic needs (plants require air, water, nutrients, and light; animals require food, water, air, and shelter)

Observation, Abstraction, Invention, and Expression

- PreK-12 Visual Arts #3: Students will demonstrate their powers of observation, abstraction, invention, and expression in a variety of media, materials, and techniques.



Lesson Objectives

What will students know and be able to do? These objectives must be observable and measurable.

Students will know and be able to:

- Observe two to three different habitats
 - Describe the basic needs of an animal and plant
 - Compare two to three different habitats
 - State and draw at least one animal or plant from each of the visited habitats
 - Describe how an animal can get its needs from its habitat
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Vocabulary

Habitat Organism Pond Forest Field Food Water Shelter Space Plant

Assessments

How will you know that the students have met the standards?

- Mass Audubon Educator will observe students exploring, observing, and identifying pond, forest and field organisms.
 - Students will participate in answering Mass Audubon Educator-prompted questions about how organisms meet their need in each habitat.
 - Students will demonstrate their understanding of how animals meet their needs in each habitat by participating in a wrap-up activity.
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Summarizer

How will the Mass Audubon Educator close the lesson to see if students met the objectives?

- Students will draw and explain animals and or plants found in each habitat as well as overlapping habitats.
- Students will play an interactive game of habitat relay in which they each have a puppet and place it in the proper habitat. Mass Audubon educators will discuss results with students.
- Students will share their habitat findings with the group.



Mass Audubon School Programs

At Mass Audubon we strive to create learning experiences that are enriching, innovative, meaningful, and engaging. All our school programs are aligned with Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks. Our network of wildlife sanctuaries and nature centers located in urban, suburban, and rural communities around the state enable us to have strong relationships with local schools.

Our Education Foundations

- Place-based education is an educational philosophy that connects learning to what is local for an individual. We help build conservation communities, working with students and teachers in cities and towns to develop place-based environmental education that is linked directly to their home community.
 - Inquiry-based learning is focused on teamwork, being learner-centered, questioning ourselves and the world around us, providing a more focused, time-intensive exploration, promoting lifelong learning, communication, and learning as fun.
 - We are fully committed to creating a positive and supportive environment for all learners.
 - We strive to be culturally sensitive, recognizing and embracing cultural differences.
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Differentiated Instruction

- We strive to create a positive learning environment that is inclusive, supportive to all learners, and sensitive to cultural diversity.
 - Outdoor classroom experiences are structured to meet the needs of the particular learners.
 - Students work in small groups using hands-on materials.
 - A variety of educational media are used, including colorful illustrations.
 - With advance notice, efforts will be made to accommodate all learning styles and physical needs.
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Notes

- Nature exploration is dependent upon the weather and other conditions. A class might observe different wildlife than they expected to see. An outdoor lesson can sometimes provide unexpected, but enriching teachable moments on a natural history topic that was not planned.
- Mass Audubon nature centers each have a unique landscape and will customize programs to work best at their particular site.
- Our lessons can be adapted to incorporate a classroom teacher's needs.

