Backyard Evaluation for Wildlife

Post Lesson 1

Age: Grades 3 – 5

Setting: Backyard, schoolyard or park

Standards: Science and Technology: 3.3.4A

Objectives: Students will be able to:

- evaluate a property to determine its ability to support wildlife.
- describe a variety of habitat requirements such as trees, shrubs, water and food sources.
- review how climate and weather affect the presence of wildlife.

Overview: The purpose of this lesson is to provide a "tool" for students to evaluate a property to determine its ability to and its history of supporting wildlife.

Materials:

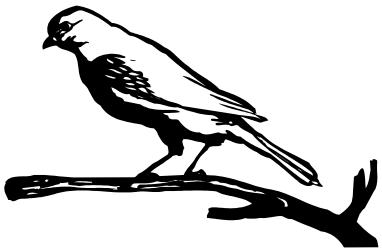
- Evaluation worksheet (page 12)
- Clipboard
- Pencil
- Maybe adult help

Procedure:

1. Using the worksheet provided, walk around the land being evaluated and fill in the information.
2. Due to the fact that some wildlife species are not currently present, but may have been in the past, recall or interview people (ie. Family) who are familiar with the land to gather some of the information.
3. Some species of plants and animals may not be easily identified. In that case have the students do the best they can to describe the species. Leaves could be brought to school and identified using guidebooks from the library.
4. When students have completed their evaluations, compare them by noticing the relationship between types of habitat and species present.

Assessment: Use the evaluation worksheet (page 12) as the assessment tool.

Habitat Evaluation Worksheet



Name(s): _____ Date: _____

_____

Location: _____

_____

Habitat Evaluation

Habitat type: (circle all that apply)

Mixed Forest	Lake	Urban Neighborhood
Deciduous Forest	River	Rural Neighborhood
Agricultural Field	Pond	
Mixed Field / Shrub	Stream	
Mixed Field / Shrub / Some Trees	Wetland	
Shrub	Mowed Lawn	
Shrub with Some Trees	Vacant Lot	
Other: _____		

Briefly describe habitat: _____

_____

Major vegetation present: _____

_____

Birds known to be on-site: _____

_____

Animals known to be on-site including insects: _____

_____

List any known food source on-site: _____

_____

Does this site provide adequate water? _____

_____

Use back if necessary