

EAS Habitat Garden Lesson Plans

Lesson Plan 1 – Habitat Requirements

Environmental Problem: Loss of wildlife habitat

Goals: Gain knowledge about specific types of habitat components and their interconnections

Objectives: Students will identify 12 specific habitat components and identify their habitat functions. Students will identify and list at least 12 existing habitat components in a natural place, and suggest 6 ways to improve the habitat.

- Activity 1A- Habitat Components
- Activity 1 B- Creating Habitat
- Students define project goal using habitat restoration terminology.
- *Optional extension: 'Habitat Rummy' Project Wild (create master cards/ board/ kit)*
- *Optional extension: 'Habitrekking' Project Wild*
- Post Activity question and response

Lesson Plan 2- Wildlife Assessment

Environmental Problem: Lack of awareness about wildlife that lives or should live in existing natural areas.

Goals: Students will learn skills to identify evidence of wildlife in natural area, and gain knowledge about wildlife that belongs in their specific region.

Objectives: Students will identify at least 6 signs of evidence that wildlife uses the natural space, and draw conclusions about the possible identity of the species. Students will learn about the common wildlife species that could naturally occur in the natural area if habitat existed. Students will begin research to identify specific habitat that can be provided for

specific animal species.

- General Site Assessment using form.
- Activity 2A- Site Assessments
- Activity 2B- Wildlife in Our Community
- *Optional Extension: Bring furs, tracks, feathers of Puget Sound wildlife to reinforce activity*
- *Optional Extension: 'Tracks!' activity- Project Wild*
- Activity 2C- Wildlife Access
- *Optional Extension: explore actual area for wildlife access/ corridors/ trails etc.*
- Post Activity Question/ Response

Lesson Plan 3- Native Plant Communities

Environmental Problem: Native plant communities have been damaged or destroyed by human impact over the last 100 years affecting the ecosystem, and specifically adversely affecting wildlife.

Goals: Students will understand that plants are the food source for all wildlife. Students will learn to identify basic native plant communities and recognize that they are part of the ecosystem called Westside Lowland Forest.

Objectives: Students will be able to identify the plant community of the school habitat or natural site. Students will be able to list at least 3 key indicators of that plant community and 6 associated plants. Students will be able to identify two other plant communities and explain why.

- Activity 3A- 'What's for Dinner?'
- Activity 3B-Westside Lowland Forest- Plant Communities slide show (or Cascade Institute video) and Native plant Assessment.
- Post Activity Question/ Response

Lesson Plan 4- Project Design

Environmental Problem:

Goal:

Objective:

- **Discussion-** Components of Project design/
- **Activity 4A-** Create design- layers/ hardscape

Lesson Plan 5- Wildlife Research- Food and Shelter

Environmental Problem: Most data does not include clear detail about what plants should be planted to serve as a critical habitat for wildlife species for our region. Landscape designs with native plants are not necessarily ecosystem designs but many people do not know the difference

Goal: Students will do in depth research about selected wildlife species that may use or could use our habitat/ restoration project and will use various resources and means to determine the best plants and hardscape features to be added to the project, and will use this data to determine the best designs choices for their garden. Students will select 3 designs that best serve the goal of the project.

Objective: Students will use at least 3 different source materials to research 1 species of wildlife. They will identify 6 species of native plants that are part of the plant community we are restoring that will provide source food, and or shelter for this species.

- **Activity 5A- Wildlife Research** (Indicate doing first part of form, or break form into two components)
- **Review suggested planting plans- Layout**

Lesson Plan 6-Planting Techniques & Planting Day

Environmental Problem: Many plantings fail because of improper planting techniques. **Goal:** Students will learn correct techniques for planting native plants.

Objective: Students will correctly plant a native plant using correct planting techniques.

- **Planting lesson**
- **Celebration of planting**
- **Planting plants**
- **Planting assessed by instructor.**

Lesson Plan 7- Wildlife Research - Monitoring

Environmental Problem: Restoration projects are difficult to assess for success due to lack of knowledge and skills

Goal: Students will identify ways to show that the habitat / restoration project is successful and will gain knowledge and skills for this assessment.

Objective: Students will document 3 distinct and probable ways that we can determine if target species have begun to use the garden site. Students will suggest 3 possible monitoring activities to show that wildlife has increased use of the habitat/restoration site

- **Wildlife Research Form- Part 2**
- **Monitoring form**