

Grade 4: Habitats and Communities - An intricate balance

Students will learn that our natural environment allows all plant and animal species (including humans) benefits such as food, water, shelter, medicine, etc. Humans however, are impacting our natural habitats and communities in ways that are causing serious alarm for future generations.

Individual Expectations:

Identify the needs of habitats and communities; investigate how we depend on them for our survival; understand the negative and positive effects humans cause on these habitats; and think of ways to minimize these impacts and work together to benefit generations to come.

Science and Technology Ideas/Vocabulary:

Habitat	Air	Pollution
Community	Water	Deforestation
Extinct	Food	Habitat loss
Conservation	Endangered	Invasive species

Grade 4: Habitats and Communities - Adaptations

Students will understand that as environments are constantly changing, all animals and plants face many challenges in order to survive: obtaining enough air, food, water, avoiding predators, etc. These challenges have allowed for adaptations in organisms - specific characteristics that allow these organisms to survive. Students will also explore why changes in the environment have greater impact on specialized species than on generalized species.

Individual Expectations

Identify the essential needs of animals and plants in a habitat; explore the relationships and challenges these organisms face within their habitat; understand the many defenses these organisms use to cope with these challenges; classify organisms according to their role in a food chain and food web; and understand the interaction between predator and prey relationships focusing on senses.

Science and Technology Ideas/Vocabulary:

Habitat	Adaptation	Food Web
Population	Defenses	Predator
Community	Food chain	Air
Competition	Prey	Shelter/Space