

conservation **H**abits
= HEALTHY HABITATS



SAMPLE



INTERMEDIATE



Are You In A Habitat?

People, plants and animals

all need a place to live and food to eat.

A habitat is a place where people, animals and plants grow and live.

Where are you right now? Are you at home? Or school? Or somewhere else?

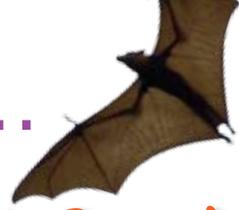
Wherever you are...you are in a habitat! People, plants and animals all need each other and we all need clean water, air and soil. Did you know that we wouldn't have air to breathe or food to eat without plants? The leaves on plants make the

oxygen we breathe and there are lots of plants that we eat like tomatoes and wheat. We need plants! What do plants need? Plants need water and

soil. Plants get minerals and other things they need to grow from soil and we get them from the food we eat. Plants also need animals like bees and beetles. Bees and beetles pollinate plants so that they can make seeds. Your backyard, the playground at school and the grassy area along the street are all habitats. Be a friend to your habitat and help take care of it. Animals like birds, squirrels, worms and bees find their food in these habitats. Plants and trees grow in these habitats. **Remember: people, plants and animals all need each other and we all need clean air, water and soil in our habitat!**



Migrate To... The Batcave!



In September of 2009 people swimming on some of the beaches in Maryland got a big scare. There were Great White Sharks swimming there too! The swimmers were scared but scientists were happy. The scientists put tags on two of the sharks. These tags will keep track of where the sharks go and help the scientists learn about how sharks **migrate**.

When animals **migrate** they move from one habitat to another. Sometimes they move because the weather changes, sometimes they move because they have to find more food and sometimes they migrate because they need a place to hibernate. When an animal hibernates it is like a loooooooooong nap that lasts all winter long! While an animal is hibernating it doesn't eat, it lives off the fat stored in its body.

Many different animals migrate. In the fall you might see birds or butterflies flying south to find a warm place to live during the winter. Sometimes they fly thousands of miles through the air without stopping. Whales, dolphins and sea turtles **migrate** to different parts of the ocean when the water temperature changes.

One animal that migrates on the land is the wildebeest. Over **one million** wildebeests living in Africa migrate every year to find food. Wildebeests are grazing animals so they like to live where there is a lot of grass to eat. During the rainy season they live on the plains and during the dry season they live in the woodlands.

Wildebeests face many dangers when they **migrate** like crossing rivers where crocodiles live!



Bats migrate to caves. Bats are one of the animals that migrate so that it can hibernate. During the summer, one of the bats favorite places to live is along the edge of forests under loose tree bark and its favorite meal is insects. When the weather turns cold and there aren't many insects to eat, bats migrate to caves to hibernate. Bats are social creatures; they like to have a lot of friends to hibernate with. While they are hibernating in caves they like to hang together in large groups to keep warm.

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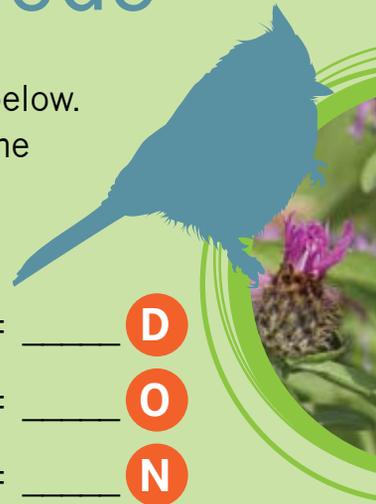


What animals that live around you migrate?
Remember, they can migrate through the air, in the water or on the land.

Crack The Code



Solve the addition and subtraction problems below. Match your answers with the letters to crack the secret code.



$4 + 4 =$ **B**

$11 - 7 =$ **H**

$19 - 17 =$ **D**

$5 + 6 =$ **T**

$10 + 0 =$ **E**

$6 + 9 =$ **O**

$18 - 11 =$ **A**

$32 - 27 =$ **F**

$7 + 5 =$ **N**

$5 + 8 =$ **R**

$12 - 3 =$ **I**

$1 - 0 =$ **Y**

$2 - 4 =$ **U**

Answer:

SAMPLE

8 10 7 5 13 9 10 12 2 11 15

1 15 6 13 4 7 8 9 11 7 11



My Habitat

YOU can do a lot to make **YOUR** habitat a better place to live.



1. Plant A Native Flower.

Insects like bees and butterflies can get nectar to eat from a flower. Birds and other animals can use flowers for shelter. Native plants are good for your habitat because they grow well in your climate and soil and they usually need less water in the summer. Visit a library or contact your local conservation district to find out what plants and flowers are native to **your habitat**.

2. Feed The Birds.

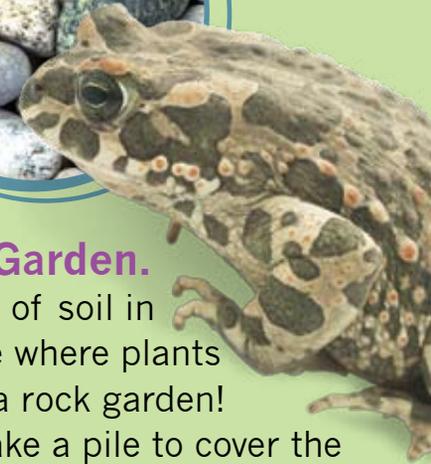
Birds are fun to watch and you may be surprised at how many different kinds of birds will come to **your habitat** if you feed them! You can make a "happy meal" for birds by spreading peanut butter on a pinecone then rolling it in bird seed and hanging it in a tree or on a bush. You can also make bird feeders out of empty milk jugs or detergent bottles. Wash and rinse the bottles first. Use your imagination and you could even build apartments for birds!



3. Make A Rock Garden.

Is there a bare patch of soil in your habitat? A place where plants don't grow? Make it a rock garden! Gather rocks and make a pile to cover the bare soil. Rocks can be found in a lot of colors and a lot of shapes. Rock gardens make a great home for amphibians like frogs and toads. The rocks will also keep the soil in **your habitat** from being washed away when it rains. This is called soil erosion. Soil erosion is bad for our water and the animals that live in water.

Planting flowers, feeding birds and making rock gardens all make your habitat a better place in many ways. They help **YOUR** soil, **YOUR** water, **YOUR** plants, **YOUR** air and all the wildlife in **YOUR habitat!**



What Happens Next In

My Habitat?

Draw a picture to show what could happen when you do something good for your habitat. Write a sentence to describe your picture on the lines under the box.

SAMPLE

What happens when you plant a flower?

What happens when you make a bird feeder?



SAMPLE

What happens when you make a rock garden?





Help The Wildebeest Migrate

From The Grassy Plains To The Woodlands

Start Your Migration Here



End Your Migration Here



Bat Facts

- Bats are the only mammals that can fly.
- Most bats migrate to the same place each year to hibernate.
- Bats live about 14 years.

Ask Maxine

Q: How can bats see to fly around at night? What keeps them from running into trees and buildings?

A: Bats “see” in the dark by using their ears! Bats send out high pitched calls and then listen for the echoes that bounce back. The echoes of their calls keep them from accidentally flying into anything in the dark. These echoes also help them find food in the night sky. Bats love to eat



flying insects. As a bat is flying through the air it sends out about 20 calls per second and listens for echoes. When the bat picks up the echoes of an insect it can send out two hundred signals per second to help it zoom in on its next meal!

Maxine worked for NACD for 47 years. That's why we always ask Maxine.



National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD)
www.nacdnet.org

Booklet designed by Willow Marketing | Content written by T.D. Southerland
Project Manager S.M. Schultz stewardship@nacdn.net
Special thanks go to the NACD Stewardship & Education Committee & reviewers for their assistance with the project. Correlations to national standards, educators guide and the answer key are available at <http://nacdn.net/education>.
Booklet designed for use with grades 2-3.
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