



Biodiversity: How can I protect the environment? How can I create better habitat for creatures that live near my home?

Take photos of the actions you are taking to improve habitat or keep a list or journal of what you are doing to encourage creatures to share your outdoor space. Share your actions with your teacher, family, and friends.

I create habitat in my yard

- Natural spaces welcome creatures by providing food, creating cover, supplying water, and sheltering their young.
 - Make bird or bat houses,
 - Put up a bird feeder, or make a suet ball,
 - Fill a bird bath with water for birds and bugs,
 - Pile up branches and twigs in a corner of the yard,
 - Plan: Set aside some of the things you make to put in your schoolyard.



I make a bee hotel

- Solitary bees live alone and don't make honey, but they are important pollinators.
- They find small holes in wood and plant material to make their homes. A bee hotel provides solitary bees with more habitat.
- There are lots of simple ways to make solitary bee nests, including rolling up paper to make the tubes the bees live in and packing the tubes into an empty plastic bottle.
- Gather cones, twigs and other dead plant material to make habitat for many different kinds of beneficial insects.



Source: Garden Therapy

I plant a tree

- Trees use carbon dioxide and provide oxygen.
- Plant a tree in your yard or move a volunteer seedling to a better spot where it has room to grow.
- Learn how to look after a tree in your yard
 - Water the tree regularly,
 - Mulch around the base of the tree to reduce weeds and conserve moisture.
- Plan: Make a map of your schoolyard and draw in where trees and other plants could be added.



Curriculum Connections

Grade 4 Arts Education **CP4.7** Create visual art works that express own ideas and draw on sources of inspiration from Saskatchewan. **CP4.8** Create art works using a variety of visual art concepts (e.g., organic shapes), forms (e.g., kinetic sculpture, mural), and media (e.g., wood, wire, and found objects).
Science **HC4.1** Investigate the interdependence of plants and animals, including humans, within habitats and communities. **HC4.2** Analyze the structures and behaviours of plants and animals that enable them to exist in various habitats. **HC4.3** Assess the effects of natural and human activities on habitats and communities, and propose actions to maintain or restore habitats.

Grade 5 Social Studies **RW5.1** Explain the importance of sustainable management of the environment to Canada's future.

Grade 6 Science **DL6.3** Analyze the characteristics and behaviours of vertebrates (i.e., mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and fish) and invertebrates. **DL6.4** Examine and describe structures and behaviours that help: individual living organisms survive in their environments in the short term, species of living organisms adapt to their environments in the long term.

Social Studies **RW6.2** Contribute to initiating and guiding change in local and global communities regarding environmental, social, and economic sustainability.

Grade 7 Practical and Applied Arts

Science **IE7.2** Observe, illustrate, and analyze living organisms within local ecosystems as part of interconnected food webs, populations, and communities. **IE7.3** Evaluate biogeochemical cycles (water, carbon, and nitrogen) as representations of energy flow and the cycling of matter through ecosystems. **IE7.4** Analyze how ecosystems change in response to natural and human influences, and propose actions to reduce the impact of human behaviour on a specific ecosystem.

Social Studies **RW7.3** Assess the ecological stewardship of economies of Canada and the circumpolar and Pacific Rim countries.

Grade 8 Health Education **USC8.6** Examine and assess the concept of sustainability from many perspectives, and develop an understanding of its implications for the well-being of self, others, and the environment. **AP8.10** Design, implement, and evaluate three seven-day action plans that establish multiple supports for responsible health action related to family roles and responsibilities, non-curable infections/diseases, violence and abuse, body image, sustainability, and sexual health.

Practical and Applied Arts

Social Studies **RW8.3** Critique the approaches of Canada and Canadians to environmental stewardship and sustainability.