

Schoolyard Habitats

1. Question

As more homes and businesses are built in Maryland, the natural habitats that sustain native plants, insects, birds, and small animals are disappearing. As a result, small mammals have nowhere to hide from predators. Birds are losing spaces to build their nests and many animals cannot find the food they need to survive the winter.

How can we assist these animals in surviving?

We can create a schoolyard habitat!

A schoolyard habitat is an environment that provides food, water, space, cover and a place to raise young for the wildlife that live in and around your school.

Image Sources: Microsoft Office



Click on the rabbit to view the film clip "Changes in Habitats." (Run time 2:35)

How can schoolyard habitats help to protect a variety of local species?

What do we already know about Schoolyard Habitats?

The green team made a bird house.

Sometimes we see blue birds.

The green team maintains the pollinator garden.

Do we know what plants are there?

There is water nearby.

There are types of trees and brush in the schoolyard.

There is a birdhouse made by the green team.

There are some gardens out front.

▶ What else do you know about the school habitat?

A schoolyard habitat is an environment that provides food, water, space, cover and a place to raise young for the wildlife that live in and around your school.

Paraphrase an Information Source

► Forest Resources

► Temperate Deciduous Forest – NatureWorks

NatureWorks. Temperate Deciduous Forests.
<http://www.nhptv.org/natureworks/nwep8c.htm>

The screenshot shows the NatureWorks website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the site logo, social media icons, and a search bar. Below the navigation bar, the main content area is titled "Temperate Deciduous Forests". The page is organized into several sections: "The Temperate Deciduous Forest", "Plant Life", "Animal Life", and "Changes". Each section contains text, images, and a "Zoom" button. The "The Temperate Deciduous Forest" section includes a world map and a photograph of a forest with autumn foliage. The "Plant Life" section features a photograph of a forest with bare trees. The "Animal Life" section includes a photograph of a cardinal bird. The "Changes" section features a photograph of red maple leaves. The page footer contains copyright information for New Hampshire PBS.

NatureWorks NH PBS

Home About Watch Nature Files Teachers Order DVD Contact

Temperate Deciduous Forests

The Temperate Deciduous Forest

Temperate deciduous forests can be found in the eastern part of the United States and Canada, most of Europe and parts of China and Japan.




Image Credit: Joseph Obrien
USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org
CC BY 3.0 US

The temperate deciduous forest is a biome that is always changing. It has four distinct seasons: winter, spring, summer and fall. Winters are cold and summers are warm. Temperate deciduous forests get between 30 and 60 inches of precipitation a year. Precipitation in this biome happens year round. Because the soil is very fertile and hardwood trees are good for building, this biome has some of the world's largest population centers in it.




Image Credit: Paul Bolstad
University of Minnesota, Bugwood.org
CC BY 3.0 US

Plant Life

Temperate deciduous forests have a great variety of plant species. Most have three levels of plants. Lichen, moss, ferns, wildflowers and other small plants can be found on the forest floor. Shrubs fill in the middle level and hardwood trees like maple, oak, birch, magnolia, sweet gum and beech make up the third level. Conifers like spruce, fir and pine trees can also be found mixed in with the hardwood trees in this biome. Sometimes the taiga and the temperate deciduous forest overlap.




Image Credit: Joseph Obrien
USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org
CC BY 3.0 US

Animal Life

There is great diversity of life in this biome. Insects, spiders, slugs, frogs, turtles and salamanders are common. In North America, birds like broad-winged hawks, cardinals, snowy owls, and pileated woodpeckers are found in this biome. Mammals in North American temperate deciduous forests include white-tailed deer, raccoons, opossums, porcupines and red foxes.




Image Credit: Hollingsworth
US Fish and Wildlife

Changes

The leaves of deciduous trees change color and fall off in the autumn and grow back in the spring. The broad, flat leaves of deciduous trees lose water quickly. In the winter when the ground is frozen, it is difficult for them to absorb water, so they drop their leaves! Deciduous trees stay dormant in the winter and bloom again in the spring!




Image Credit: Ryan Haggerty
US Fish and Wildlife

images
CC BY 3.0 US

© 2017 New Hampshire PBS
Durham, NH 03824 (603) 868-1100 themailbox@nhpbs.org

Some pictures information and some pictures:

- ▶ Girl Scout troop helped with migratory garden.
- ▶ Padonia students maintain the garden.



Let's notice things in the Schoolyard Habitat



What do you notice?



What do you notice?



What do you notice?



What do you notice?



What do you notice?



What do you notice?



What do you notice?



What do you think this area is good for?



What do you think
this area is good for?



How might we make this area look better?



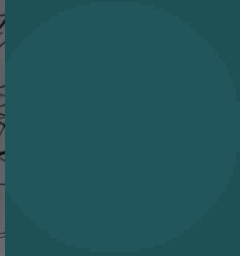
How might we make this area look better?



What could we do to improve our schoolyard habitat?



How is our habitat important to our community?



What can we tell students about our schoolyard habitat?



How can schoolyard habitats help protect a variety of local species?



There are great things about our schoolyard habitat! How can we share that information with others?



2. Information Sources

[1](#)[2](#)[3](#)[4](#)[5](#)[6](#)[Next](#)

Using the resources below, learn about the environment(s) that you might encounter around your school. Record your findings [here](#).

Forest Resources	Wetland Resources	Other resources
Temperate Deciduous Forest – NatureWorks	Wetland – World Book Student	Geography and Landforms – Teachers First
Forest – World Book Student	Wetlands – EPA	Tracks and Sign Guide – BioKIDS
Forests – BrainPOP Jr.	Freshwater Habitats – BrainPOP Jr.	Observing Wildlife – Wildlife Journal Junior
Forest – World Book Kids	Wetland – World Book Kids	Field Guides – eNature
	Swamps and Wetland – A-Z Animals	Maryland Plants and Wildlife – Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources 

4. Assessment Activity

Now it is your turn to answer the focus question:

How can schoolyard habitats help protect a variety of local species?

You will take the information that you've learned about habitats AND the pictures and videos you took from your own schoolyard to construct a public service announcement for your school.

Your PSA could be created in one of these formats:

- ▶ Audio-Only Announcements - [Rubric](#)
- ▶ Video Announcements – [Rubric](#)

Use the Rubrics to help you do your best work!



Image Source: [Clipart.com](#) by subscription