

HABITAT IS HOME POSTVISIT MATERIAL

Disappearing Homes

Explain that many animals are “endangered” (close to becoming extinct or gone forever) because people change or destroy habitats. Hand out a copy of the Habitat is Home activity sheet and three different colored markers to each student. Explain that the center pictures show ways that people change the habitats of wildlife. The small pictures at the top and bottom show reasons why people make these changes. You may want to discuss the pictures and do the activity as a group. Students must decide which of the small pictures show a reason for each change in the larger pictures. Draw a line from the reasons (small pictures) to the change (large picture). Use a different color marker or crayon for lines to each large picture. Answers: Picture #1 (filling/draining wetlands) – buildings, roads, farms, pasture, food

Picture #2 (cutting down forests) – lumber, furniture, firewood, buildings, clearings for roads, dams, farms, pastures and food

Picture #3 (overgrazing livestock) – food, wool/leather

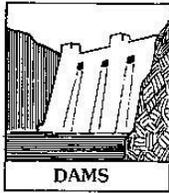
Discuss other ways that people change the habitats of wild animals (mining, polluting the air and water). What can we do to help wildlife? (plant trees and flowers, put up nest houses for birds, add a bird bath or pond to your back yard, feed the birds.) Adapted from *Nature Scope, Endangered Species: Wild & Rare*, National Wildlife Federation (1989)

Plan a Backyard Habitat

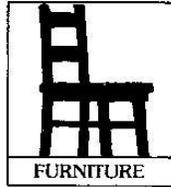
Ask the students for ideas how we can help wildlife (planting trees and flowers, staying on trails in the park, being careful with campfires, not littering, adopting an endangered species, recycling, etc.) List their ideas on the chalkboard. Give each student a copy of the attached template pages. Discuss the importance of each to wildlife. Have students color and cut out the ones they would like to use to make their own ideal backyard for wildlife. Paste these onto construction paper, adding plants and animals they would like in their picture. Have each student include a statement about how we can help wildlife. Display the pictures in the hallway for parents and other classes to see. Adapted from *Endangered Species*, Carson-Dellosa (1993)

School Yard Safari

Review the needs of animals in any habitat: food, water, shelter, and space. Explain that there are many different habitats and even the most urban area is a habitat to small creatures such as spiders, ants, bees, beetles, worms, and butterflies. Establish boundaries for a study area outdoors and invite the students to join you on a school yard safari. Students work in pairs, looking carefully for signs of animal life, making a list of everything found (spider webs, bird nests, partially eaten acorns, animal tracks, ant hills, etc.). You will be surprised the things that are close to the school and parking lot that were overlooked before the safari. Looking closely is the key to success. Regroup in the classroom for discussion. What animal and animal signs were found? Did they find any evidence of feeding? Where did the tracks lead? What type of shelter was found for wildlife? *Extension:* Students may choose an animal that they observed or saw signs of on the safari and imagine being that animal. You may want to play natural sounds such as a rainstorm approaching and have the students close their eyes and imagine trying to survive in the storm as that animal. Finally, have each student draw a picture of their animal in its natural habitat. Use the drawings in a classroom display. Adapted from *Project Learning Tree Environmental Education Activity Guide*, American Forest Foundation (1993)



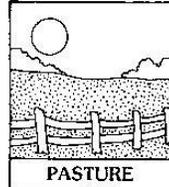
DAMS



FURNITURE



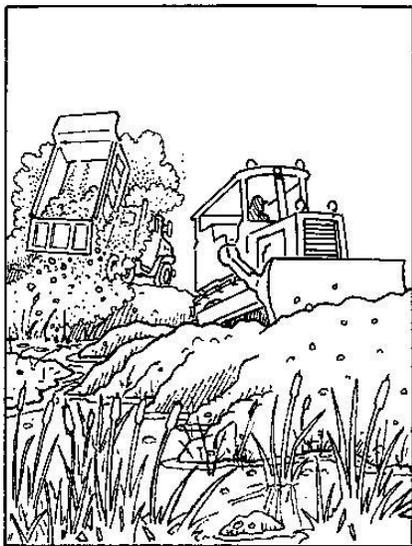
ROADS



PASTURE



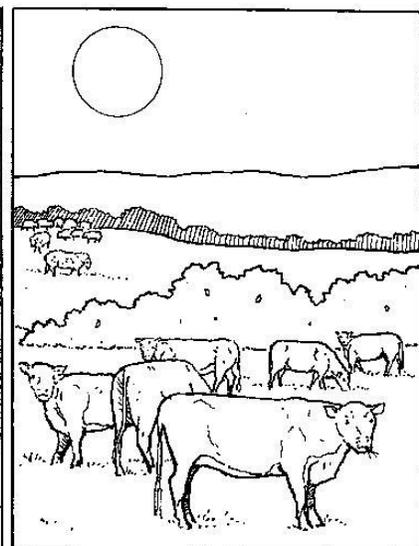
FOOD



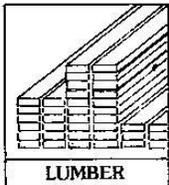
1. FILLING & DRAINING WETLANDS



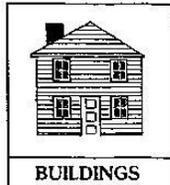
2. CUTTING DOWN FORESTS



3. OVERGRAZING LIVESTOCK



LUMBER



BUILDINGS



WOOL/LEATHER

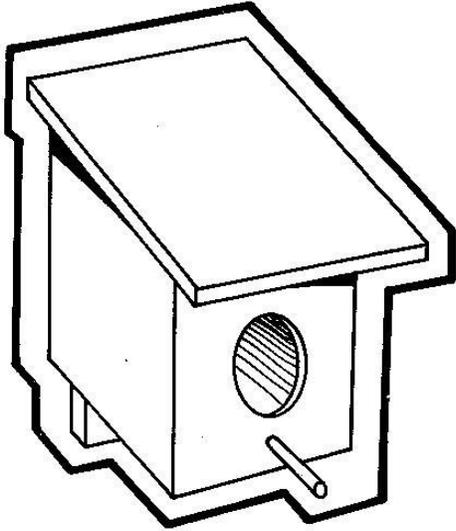


FARMS

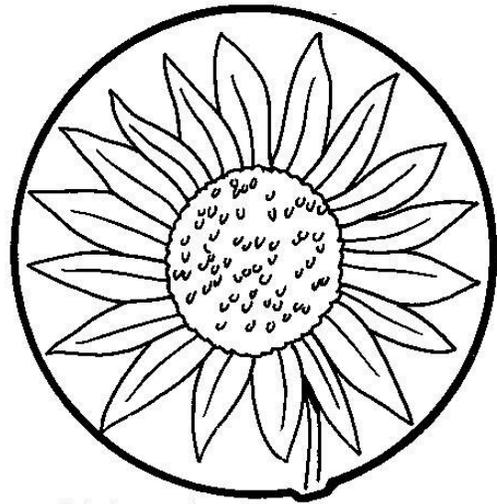


FIREWOOD

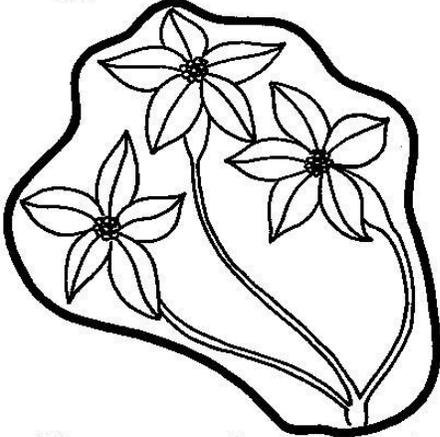
Templates



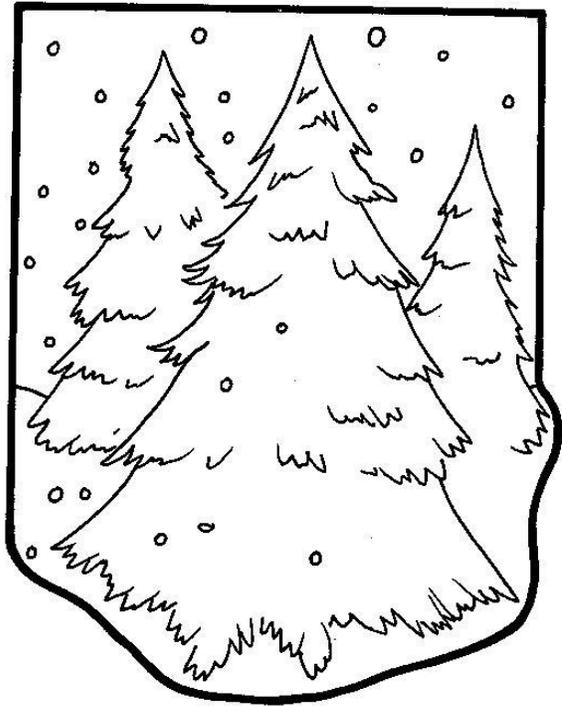
A birdhouse provides a nesting place for birds.



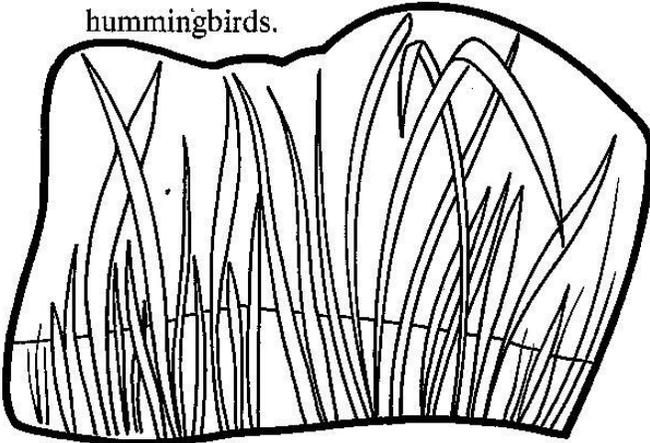
Birds, squirrels, and mice eat sunflower seeds.



Flowers attract butterflies and hummingbirds.

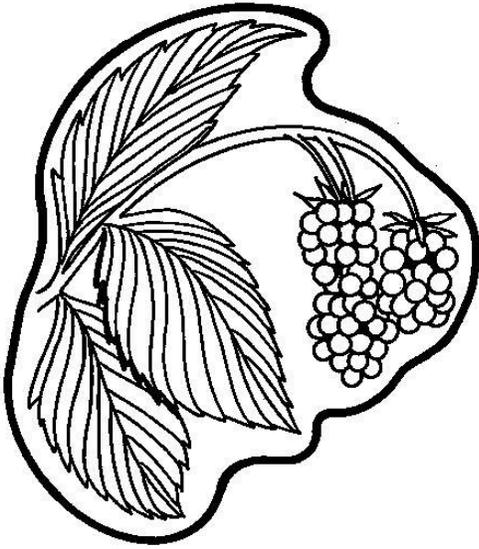


Evergreens shelter birds in winter.

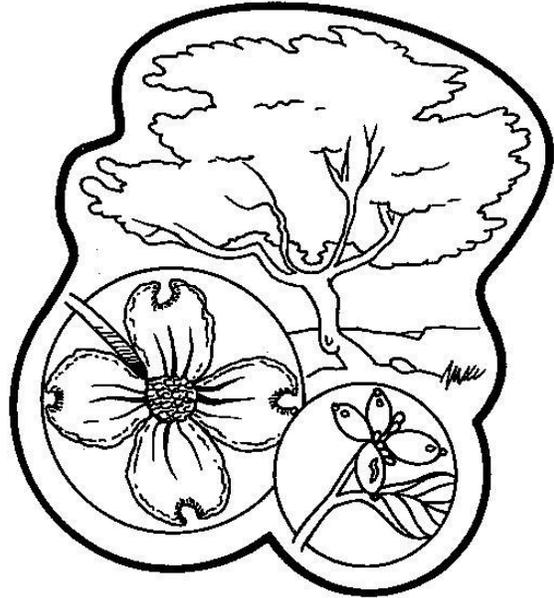


Long grass shelters insects.

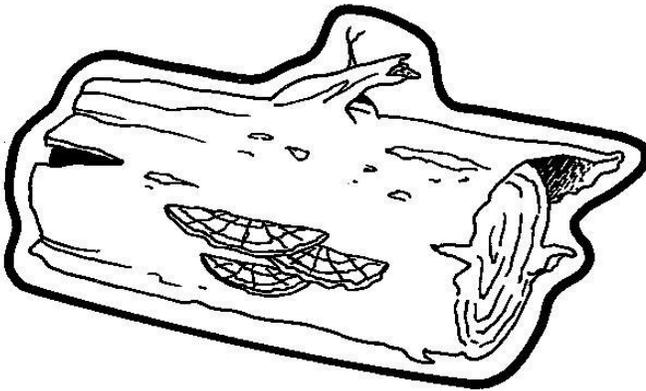
Templates



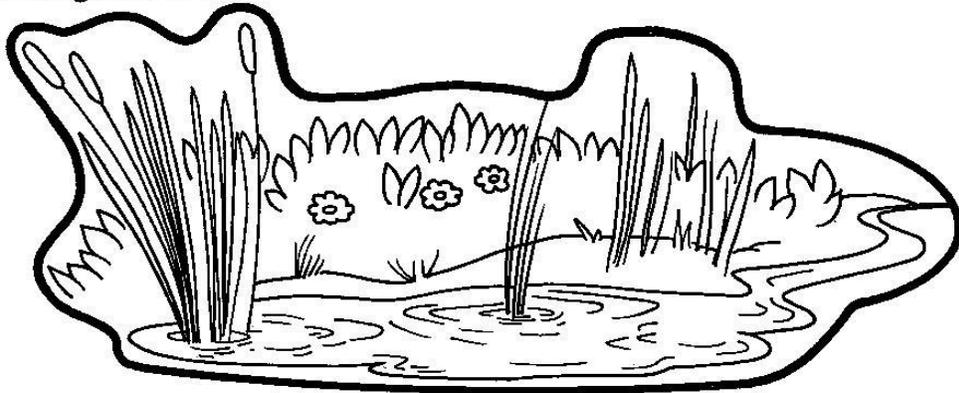
Many birds and mammals eat berries.



A dogwood tree provides buds and berries for birds and squirrels to eat.



Insects and fungi live in rotting logs.



A pool provides water for birds and mammals to drink. It also is a place for water animals and plants to live.