

Focus on: Human Impact on Habitats

This lesson is meant to support the unit on Ecosystems. It can be done to generate background knowledge prior to teaching the unit, during the unit to reinforce lessons, or as a follow up to the unit to increase the retention of information. How you guide your students will depend on the information you have already taught and the information you want to introduce.

Clarifying Objectives:

1.L.1.3 Summarize ways that humans protect their environment and/or improve conditions for the growth of the plants and animals that live there. (e.g., reuse or recycle products to avoid littering)

Key Vocabulary:

Definitions can be found at <http://learnersdictionary.com>

- Summarize
- Protect
- Environment
- Needs
- Summarize
- Protect
- Improve
- Conditions
- Growth
- Reuse
- Recycle
- Littering

Focus Question(s):

What impact do humans have on the land when they create a garden habitat?

Materials:

- School Garden
- Science Notebooks
- Your School Garden Coordinator or other Garden Expert (Such as a Wake County Master Gardener: <http://wake.ces.ncsu.edu/spotlight/master-gardener-volunteer/>)

Activities:

1. If possible, show students what their school garden area looked like before it became a school garden. (Your garden coordinator may have this photo or know where one can be found.)
2. Take students to the garden. Have your garden coordinator or other garden expert involved in this lesson to help with this discussion.
3. Ask students to close their eyes and imagine what this area looked like before it was a school garden. Even if they have not seen a photograph, you can have them imagine. *Was it a parking lot, grassy area, wooded area, etc? Imagine it. What was it like?*

Guiding Questions:

- How do you think this garden came to be?
- What work was done?
- What supplies were needed?
- When we changed the environment to make a garden, was it a good change or a bad change – why?
- Do the same plants and animals live here in the garden or different ones? Why?
- What animals live in the garden that

<ol style="list-style-type: none">4. Have students walk around the garden and find ways that humans have impacted the garden habitat – created it, cared for it, changed it...5. Have students write their finding in their science notebooks.6. Discuss the guiding questions and interview your garden expert when necessary.	<p>would not be here if the garden did not exist?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What needs are met in the garden that help the plants or animals survive?• What do people do to improve the growing conditions of the garden? (weed, water, rake, mulch, etc.)• If we did not take care of our garden, what would happen?• What do we do to protect plants and animals in the garden?• What questions do you have for our garden expert?
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