

## Focus on: Classroom Animals in the Garden

This lesson is meant to support the unit on Life in Changing Habitats. It can be done during the unit to reinforce lessons, or as a follow up to the unit to increase the retention of information. This lesson should take place after the classroom habitats are created for the frogs, crabs and millipedes. How you guide your students will depend on the information you have already taught and the information you want to introduce.

### Clarifying Objectives:

4.L.1.1 Give examples of changes in an organism's environment that are beneficial to it and some that are harmful.

4.L.1.3 Explain how humans can adapt their behavior to live in changing habitats.

4.L.1.4 Explain how difference among animals of the same population sometimes give individuals an advantage in surviving and reproducing in changing habitats.

### Key Vocabulary:

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

- Organism
- Environment
- Beneficial
- Harmful
- Humans
- Adapt
- Behavior
- Difference
- Population
- Advantage
- Surviving
- Reproducing
- Habitats

### Focus Question(s):

Which animal living in our classroom habitats could survive living in our school garden ecosystem?

### Materials:

School Garden  
Science Notebooks

### Activities:

1. Review the habitats the students created for the frogs, crabs and millipedes. What did each habitat need in order to create an environment where the animals could survive?
2. Divide students into groups. Give each group a classroom animal on which to focus. Have students search the garden for evidence that their animal could survive if they were introduced into the garden ecosystem and record it in their science notebooks.
3. If students do not think their animals could survive in the garden ecosystem, they should write about what is missing from the garden ecosystem that would make it possible.

### Guiding Questions:

- What does your animal need?
- Which of your animal's needs can be met in the garden?
- What needs cannot be met?
- If the school garden does not have everything your animal needs, can something be added to our garden to meet those needs?
- Should we introduce animals that are not native to the

<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>4. Share findings and discuss.</li><li>5. Consider the impact that introducing non-native species could have on an ecosystem. Have students discuss. (Stress the disastrous consequences of introducing non-native species into an ecosystem.)</li><li>6. Have students read and discuss the following article that demonstrates the impact pet owners had when they released their pet snakes into the Florida Everglades. <a href="https://www.nps.gov/ever/learn/nature/burmese-python.htm">https://www.nps.gov/ever/learn/nature/burmese-python.htm</a></li></ol>	<p>garden into the garden?</p> <p>- What impact could that have?</p>
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