

## Focus on: Garden Habitat

This lesson is meant to support the unit on Life in Changing Habitats. 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:

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 differences 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):

What makes the school garden a habitat?

### 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. Tell students you are going to visit a habitat located right on your school campus – our school garden.
3. Visit the garden. Present the students with the focus question, “What makes the school garden a habitat?” Have students enter the question in their student notebooks.

### Guiding Questions:

- What is a habitat?
- Are there animals living in the garden?
- What kind of animals did you find?
- What are their needs?
- How are the needs of each animal being met in the garden?
- What does the garden provide for each animal?

4. Encourage students to explore the garden looking for evidence that the school garden is a habitat. Have students record their evidence in their notebooks.
5. After exploring, gather students to share their findings. Discuss.

- What purpose does each animal serve in the garden?
- What kinds of food can be found in the garden for the different animals?