

LESSON: Map the Species in Your Neighborhood

GRADE: K

OBJECTIVES:

Social Studies

Geography-

SS.K-2.G.1 Understand the use of geographic tools to locate and analyze information about people, places, and environments.

- Understand representations of the earth such as maps, globes and photographs.
- Understand representations of locales and regions on maps and globes.

Science

Earth & Human Activity-

- **K-ESS3-1** Use a model to represent the relationship between the needs of different plants and animals (including humans) and the places they live.

Science as Inquiry-

S.K-2.SI.4 Use tools to gather data and extend the senses.

- Students use tools such as rulers, thermometers, watches, balances, spring scales, magnifiers and microscopes to extend their senses and their abilities to gather data.

MATERIALS & RESOURCES:

- Large sheets of paper
- Pencils, markers or crayons
- Example maps

PRESENTATION:

Have a discussion about maps and show some examples. Maps can be explained as a picture of where things are or how things are arranged. For example, a map of the school neighborhood has a symbol for the school, the playground, the streets, etc.. In this activity the kids get to make their own neighborhood map which includes the places where people, animals, and plants live. (This lesson can be used in conjunction with the Kindergarten Science lesson, *Plant and Animal Habitat Slide Show*, in which the children learn about species habitat.)

DIRECTIONS:

1. As a group or class discuss why the animals and plants in your neighborhood live in that area. For example, squirrels live in the oak tree near the parking lot. They need food and shelter. The oak tree provides nuts and shelter.
2. Have students draw a map of their neighborhood. Have them include their homes and other species' homes.
3. Have them share their maps with at least 2 other people or classmates. Here is an example of how they can share:
 - First, tell your partner about the places on your map.
 - Then ask, "What is your 'favorite place' on your map? Then talk with the partner about the habitats on your map. Discuss the needs of those species. What are your needs and how are your needs the same and different from other species? For example-Why does the squirrel live near the oak tree? Why does the sunflower live in the empty lot on the corner?"

TIME:**45-90 min****PROCESSING THROUGH THE SIX PILLARS****WHAT?**

- What is a favorite place on your map? Why is it a favorite place?
- How did it feel to map the habitats of other species?
- Was there anything you found challenging about making your map? What was it?

SO WHAT?

- What was it like when you learned about a friend's favorite place?
- How did you show Respect when friends were sharing their map?

WHAT NOW?

- How can you be respectful when a friend has an idea that is different from yours?
- Ask your family members about their favorite places. Draw a map with your family and include everyone's favorite places!