

Aliens Relate to Project Learning Tree and Project Wild!!

The [Aliens In Your Neighborhood](#) lesson plans are cross-linked to Project Learning Tree (PLT), Project Wild (PW) and Project Wild Aquatic (PWA). Each *Aliens* Unit is listed in bold, followed by suggested activities which are listed by activity title, the manual where it is found, how it relates to the *Aliens* unit and to NatureMapping, and a brief description of the activity. The activities listed are not restricted to the *Aliens* unit in which they are found.

Aliens Unit Key – Classification (**C**), Ecosystems (**E**), Issues (**I**), Invasion (**In**), NatureMapping (**NM**), Plants (**P**)

Aliens Description	Activity	Manual	Relationship to Aliens Units & NatureMapping	Activities Activity
C, NM	Animal Charades	PW	Reinforce characteristics of animals students will be mapping, helps learn ID characteristics	Students use “charades” to distinguish between wild & domestic animals
E	Blue Ribbon Niche	PW	If site includes a riparian area, familiarize students with critters in riparian areas	Students create a variety of representations of animals & plants that live in riparian areas
E	Can it be Real?	PLT	Help students better understand the concept of adaptation; help students relate relationship of animals to their habitats	Students study characteristics of unusual plants and animals and describe how they are adapted to a particular set of environmental conditions
E	Carrying Capacity	PW	Develop better understanding of natural processes; carrying capacity: basic habitat requirements	Students become herds of animals seeking food in a physically involving game
E	Classroom Carrying Capacity	PW	Develop better understanding of natural processes; discussion of habitat: densities of critters at different times of the year	Students sit unusually close to each other & describe the results
E	(The) Forest of S.T. Shrew	PLT	If map a forest area; important to learn about where different animals live	Students identify microhabitats in the forest by drawing pictures or writing stories and describe plants or animals that characterize microhabitats in a forest
E	Habitat Lap Sit	PW	Understanding of what needs to be present for animals to survive; habitat	Students physically form an interconnected circle to demonstrate components of habitat
E	Habitat Rummy	PW	Understanding of what needs to be present for animals to survive; habitat	Students make cards with habitat components & play a card game
E	Habittracks	PW	Understanding of what needs to be present for animals to survive; habitat	Students identify the components of habitat by using a map & exploring their school grounds
E	Marsh Munchers	PWA	If site includes a wetland, learn about marsh critters	Students use body movement & pantomime to simulate the feeding motions of marsh animals & identify their interconnectedness in a food web
E	Puddle Wonders!	PWA	Larger puddles – students can survey wildlife, perhaps even as part of the Frog & Toad Survey	Students observe water that accumulates in puddles on or near the school grounds as well as any associated wildlife
E	Riparian Retreat	PWA	If site is along a stream, learn about habitat components & critters along streams	Awareness of a riparian zone is created through the use of a simulated field trip
E	What’s That, Habitat?	PW	Understanding of what needs to be present for animals to survive; habitat	Students draw pictures of people’s & animal’s homes, comparing basic needs

E, I	Riparian Zone	PW	Introduce students to civic processes; extensive discussion of land use/ wildlife impacts, WQ impacts	Students simulate a Board of Commissioners meeting
E, I	Who Lives Here?	PW Extension	Students learn about native/introduced animals, impacts on an ecosystem	Students research & write reports about native & introduced animal species & conduct a class quiz & discussion
E, In	How Many Bears (Coyotes) Can Live in this Forest?	PW	Develop better understanding of natural processes; discussion of habitat; densities of critters at different times of the year	Students become bears & look for one or more components of habitat during this physically involving game
E, NM	Who Fits Here?	PW	Learn about different animals will map their habitats	Students play an identification game using posters & cards – match the animal to the environment where it lives
E, NM	Wildlife Is Everywhere!	PW	Hone observation skills	Students search their environment for evidence of wildlife
E, P	(The) Beautiful Basics	PW	Understanding of what needs to be present for animals to survive: habitat	Students list & organize needs of people, pets, & wildlife
E, P	Designing a Habitat	PWA	Students learn about habitat requirements of animals	Students design a habitat suitable for aquatic wildlife to survive in a zoo or aquarium
E, P	Everybody Needs a Home	PW	Understanding of what needs to be present for animals to survive; habitat	Students draw pictures of homes & compare their needs with those of other animals
I	Changing Attitudes	PW Extension	People’s roles in wildlife management	Students design & conduct community interviews, compiling & summarizing findings
I	EthiThinking	PW Extension	What impacts wildlife; also quality of life	Students list activities that might be harmful to wild plants & animals & use photos or drawings to picture, discuss, interpret, or evaluate these activities
I	Facts & Falsehoods	PWA	Learn to assess quality of information; also crucial when working with diverse groups	Students analyze & evaluate print material according to criteria they establish for quality, balance, & fairness; then develop their own presentations using such criteria
I	Fire Ecologies	PW	Students can NatureMap areas with prescribed burns	Students conduct a field investigation
I	Flip the Switch for Wildlife!	PW Extension	Look at indirect impacts of our actions, how they impact natural resources & wildlife in particular	Students illustrate the route of energy from its sources to human use, including environmental impacts along its path; & then invent & try ways to make beneficial impacts on wildlife through their personal energy use practices
I	Keeping Score	PW	Recommend actions to improve/ maintain habitat in community; can do comparative studies before and after using NatureMapping	Students investigate their neighborhoods for cause & effect relationships affecting wildlife; recommend actions to improve/maintain quality of wildlife habitat in the community
I	Know Your Legislation: What’s in it for Wildlife?	PW	Acquaint students with legislative process/impact	Students actively participate in the legislative process
I	Philosophical Differences	PW Extension	People’s roles in wildlife management	Students select an environmental issue of concern & find out philosophical positions of interest groups
I	Planning For People & Wildlife	PW Extension	What impacts wildlife; also quality of life	Students imagine & research what the area in which they live was like before development; design planned communities, & build & evaluate models of their designs

I	Shrinking Habitat	PW	Relate effects of development on habitat	Students simulate a process of land development in a physically involving activity
I	To Zone or Not to Zone To Dam or Not to Dam	PW PWA Extension	Land use planning; students learn about impacts of land use on natural resources & importance of responsible planning	Students role play a meeting of a county commission pertaining to a land use issue
I	Watch on Wetlands	PLT	Help students gain important background information if the adopted site is a wetland; do survey of vertebrates	Students study a wetland ecosystem and analyze issues and opinions relating to the management and protection of wetlands
I	Wildlife Issues: Community Attitude Survey	PW Extension	People's roles in wildlife management	Students develop a questionnaire & conduct a community survey
I	Wild Bill's Fate	PW	Acquaint students with legislative process/impact	Students investigate pending legislation affecting wildlife
I, NM	Something's Fishy Here!	PWA Extension	Allows students to explore possible avenues of action; students can look at an area they have NatureMapping data for; they can look for any noticeable changes & try to come up with possible explanations for those changes; they could contact local resource people for more information	Students read & discuss a story, inventing their own endings that lead to environmental action in their community: ext #1
I, R	Who Pays for What?	PW	Helps students gain a better understanding of funding sources for wildlife research, habitat, etc.	Students identify principal sources of wildlife related funds; correspond with agencies & organizations to investigate sources, amounts, uses, trends & problems concerning such funding, & summarize their findings
In	Here Today, Gone Tomorrow	PW	Endangered species: how relates to keeping "common animals common"	Students become familiar with classification of animals, conduct research, & make a master list of threatened & endangered animals & factors affecting conditions
In	Migration Headache	PWA Extension	Impact of habitat loss on migrating waterfowl	Students role play migrating waterfowl traveling between nesting & wintering habitats
In	Oh Deer!	PW	Develop better understanding of natural processes; discussion of habitat: densities of critters at different times of the year	Students become deer & look for habitat components in a highly involving physical activity
In, I	Planting Animals	PW Extension	Students learn about reintroductions, impacts on an ecosystem	Students write a letter to a wildlife agency for information & make dioramas of animals transplanted into new habitats (information supplements & listed references)
In, I	What Did Your Lunch Cost Wildlife?	PW Extension	Look at indirect impacts of our actions	Students trace food sources, diagram environmental impacts, & apply the knowledge they gain by making changes in some of their consumer choices
NM	Bird Song Survey	PW	Learn to ID birds by song, can use NatureMapping &/or national survey protocols	Students investigate an area & use bird counting techniques
NM	Earth Manners	PLT	Good activity to introduce appropriate behaviors in natural areas; older students skip the story and just discuss appropriate behaviors in natural areas	Students express appropriate ways to treat living things and to act in forests, parks, and other natural areas

NM	Graph An Animal	PW	Research habitats that will be observed, learn to identify animals there, graph observations	Students create picture collections of animals in two different habitats; then tally the number of animals they see
NM	Microtrek Treasure Hunt	PW	Hone observation skills	Students go outside on a "treasure hunt" for wildlife
NM	Planet of Plenty	PLT	Build observation and recording skills; helps illustrate relationship of diverse habitat (soils, plants) to diversity of animals (can relate to cultural context with human populations)	Students investigate the diversity of plants and animals on a small plot of land and explain the value of diversity of life forms in a particular ecosystem
NM	School Yard Safari	PLT	Good way to inventory animals before and after initiating projects to improve habitat	Students find signs of animals living in the school yard and describe ways environment provides what they need to survive
NM	Sounds Around Part A	PLT	Hone listening skills if map birds; also can better locate source of sounds to find other animals	Students identify sounds and map location
NM	Time Lapse	PW	Photographic records & narratives of study areas	Students prepare & present a visual interpretation of a concept
NM	Tracks!	PW	Help identify presence of animals in an area	Students make plaster casts of animal tracks
NM	Wild Words... a Journal Making Activity	PW	Journals for additional observations, students record role in project, impact on them	Students go into an outdoor setting to make & write in journals they design
NM	Wildlife Research	PW	Use criteria to look at NatureMapping protocols, how fit with what students want to learn	Students evaluate types of research involving wildlife; apply their results to develop individual proposals that meet criteria for appropriateness & conduct research
NM, P	Improving Wildlife Habitat in the Community	PW	Can use NatureMapping to survey wildlife before & after a project	Students design & accomplish a project to improve wildlife habitat in their community
NM, P	Learning to Look, Looking to See	PW	Hone observation skills	Students list what they remember seeing in a familiar environment, check for accuracy & discuss the results, & then practice their skills in a new environment
NM, P	Photos Keep it Happening	PW	Additional records of site, wildlife	Students create photo or other visual studies of wild or domesticated animals
NM, P	Urban Nature Search	PW	Use as an introduction if do NatureMapping in an urban area	Students go outside to observe an environment & use a questionnaire to assist in gathering data