



Habitats

Grade Level: 1st-3rd grade

Virginia SOLs

- 1.4 The student will investigate and understand that plants have life needs and functional parts and can be classified according to certain characteristics. Key concepts include
- needs (food, air, water, light, and a place to grow).
- 2.5 The student will investigate and understand that living things are part of a system. Key concepts include
- living organisms are interdependent with their living and nonliving surroundings; and
 - habitats change over time due to many influences.
- 3.5 The student will investigate and understand relationships among organisms in aquatic and terrestrial food chains. Key concepts include
- producer, consumer, decomposer;
 - herbivore, carnivore, omnivore; and
 - predator and prey.
- 3.6 The student will investigate and understand that ecosystems support a diversity of plants and animals that share limited resources. Key concepts include
- aquatic ecosystems;
 - terrestrial ecosystems;
 - populations and communities; and
 - the human role in conserving limited resources.

Description:

This is an activity that explores what elements make up a successful wildlife habitat as well as different types of habitats found around Earth.

Objectives: At the end of this lesson, the students will be able to:

- Describe the 5 major biomes on Earth
- Describe the factors that make up a successful habitat

Background:

Many ecosystems exist on Earth- Grassland, Mountain, Aquatic, Desert, Forest etc. All forms of life are dependent upon both living and nonliving components of the environment. The living and nonliving components of an ecosystem all interact with each other and are interdependent.

Vocabulary:

Interdependence- Dependent or relying upon each other, the interrelationships of species with one another and with the various elements of their environment.

Migration- The act of moving from one place to another.

Species- Plant, animal or insect.

Abiotic- Nonliving.

Biotic- Living.

Conservation- careful use and preservation of our natural resources.

Materials Needed:

- PowerPoint
- Blank Arrowhead Coloring Sheet
- Coloring Materials
- Scissors

Procedure:

Step 1: Introduction and Definitions

- Provide the guiding question: What is your favorite animal?
- Introduce key vocabulary words
- Ask students examples of animals they might see at Manassas National Battlefield Park

Step 1: Review a variety of ecosystems

- Many ecosystems exist on the Earth. Tell students the different types, and an overview of each

Step 2: Elements of a habitat

- Food
- Water
- Shelter
- Cover
- Places to Raise Young
- Sustainable Practices

Step 3: Matching Game (see below)

- Have students match the habitat elements to the correct animal

Step 4: Draw a Habitat

- If time permits, on the blank arrowhead coloring sheet, have the students draw their favorite animal and the habitat it lives in.
 - Make sure they include all the elements of a habitat!

Habitat Matching Game

Step 1: Ask students what are the elements that make up a habitat:

- Food
- Water
- Air
- Cover
- Space
- Places to Raise Young
- Sustainable Practices

Step 2:

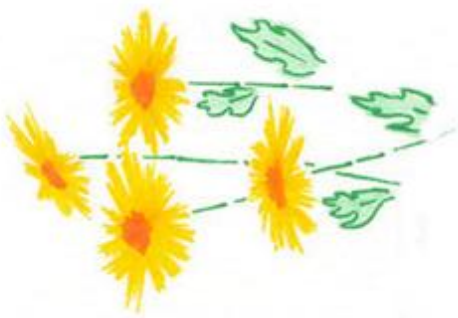
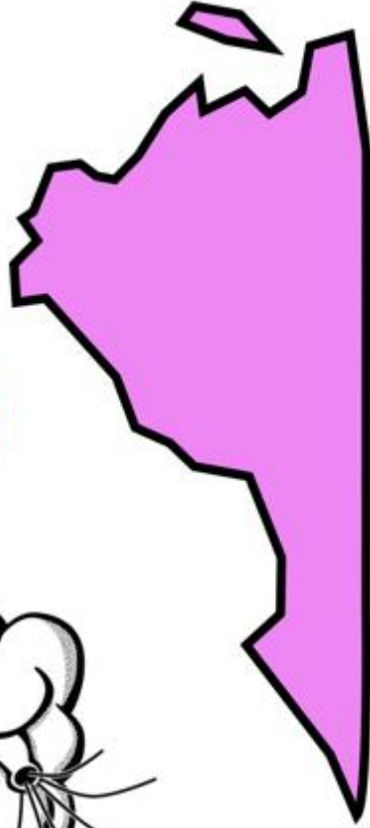
Cut out pictures and locations on next few pages. Place locations on the board or an area where student can see them. Scramble remaining cut outs and pass out to the students. Have students one at a time come up and place their picture under a location. The goal is to create a well-rounded habitat for each animal. If a student is unsure where their item goes, they can say pass to be skipped.

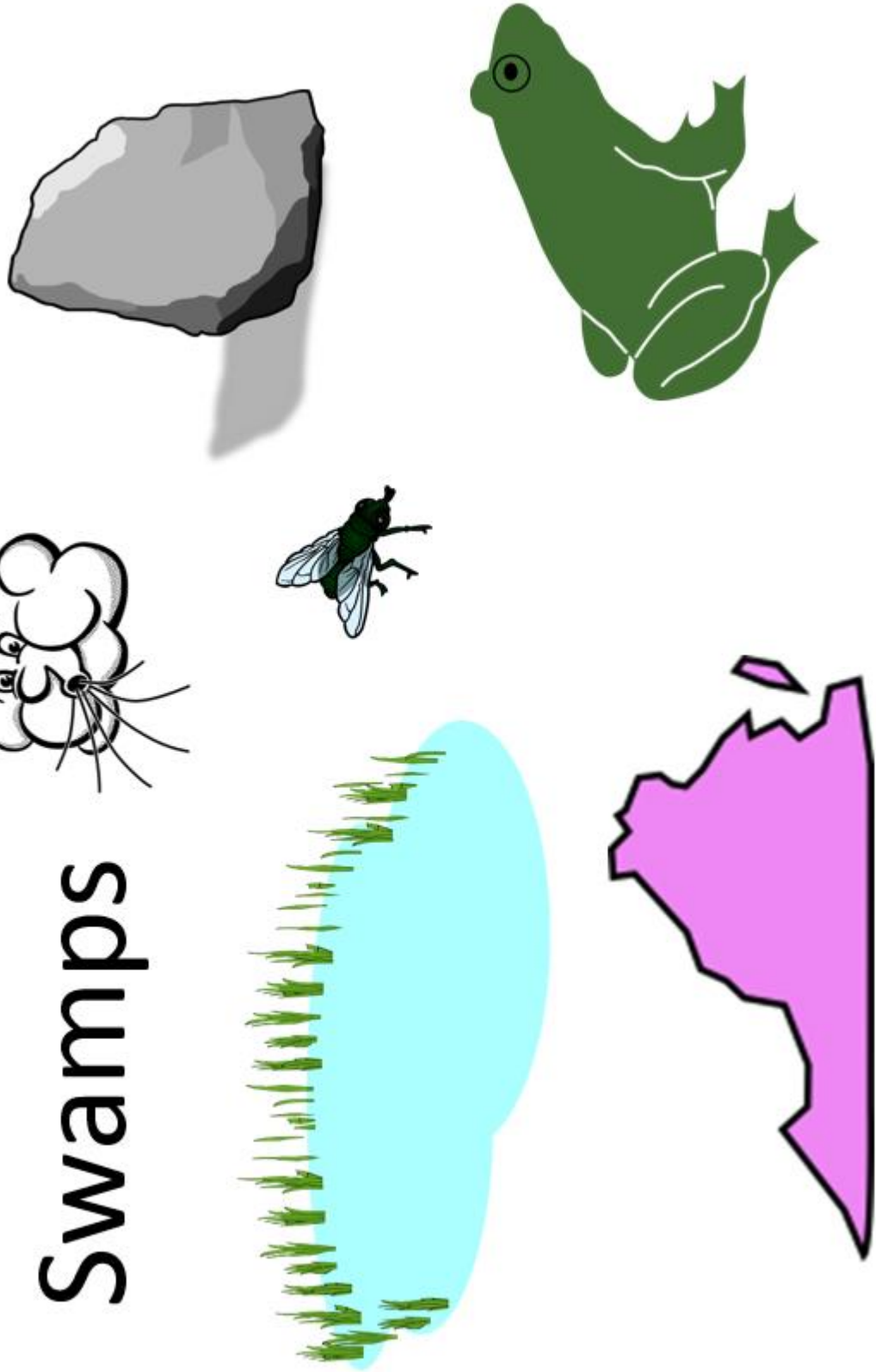
Hint: The game is made easier if students with the animals are asked to go first.

In the case of this game, cover and place to raise young has been grouped into one item.

Sustainable practices has not been included in this matching game.

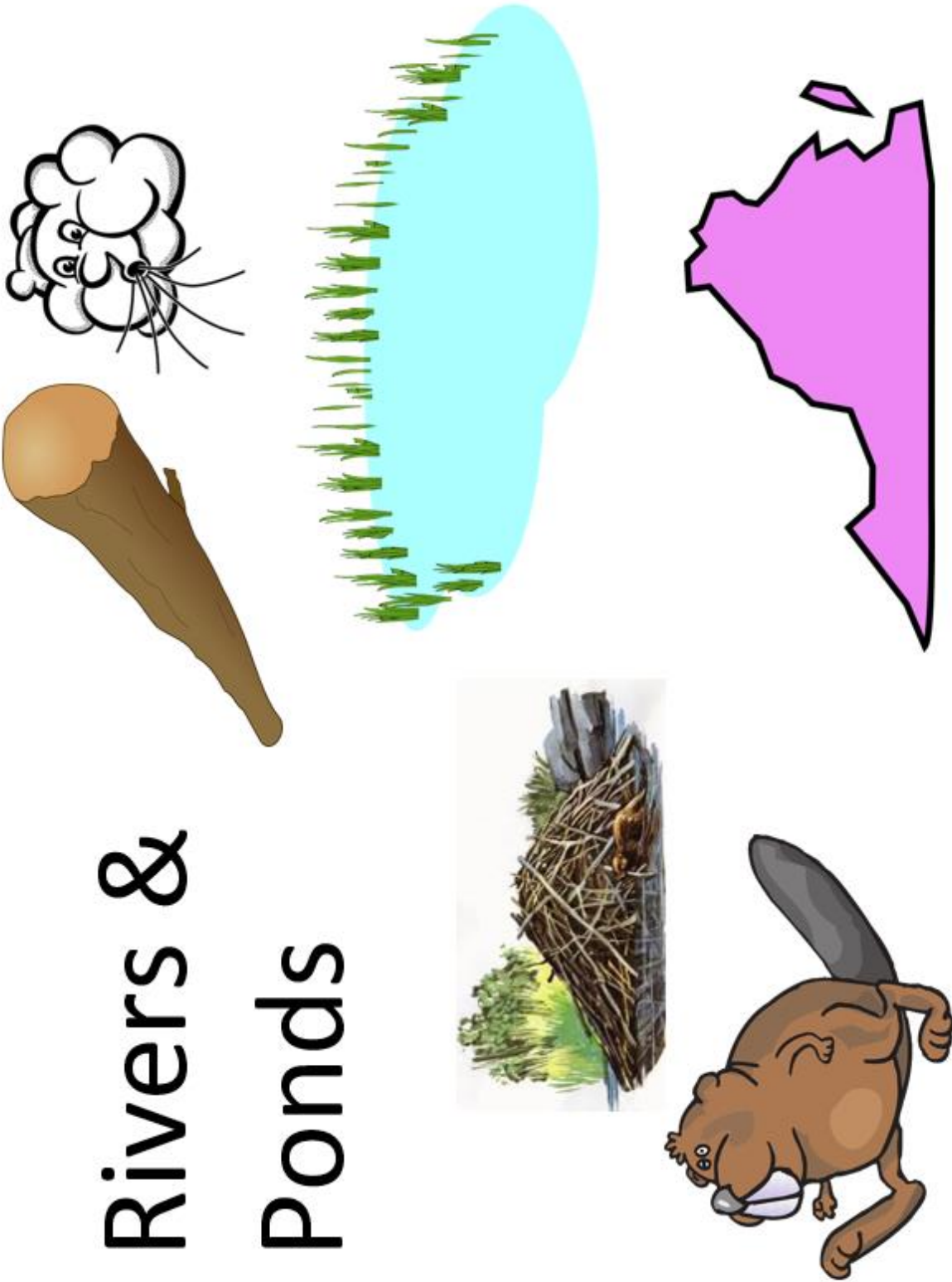
Grassland





Swamps

Rivers & Ponds



Forest

