



Lesson Plan: Where Plants and Animals Live

Grade Level: 3

Subject: Life Science

Duration: 45–60 min

NGSS 3-LS4-3: Construct an argument with evidence that in a particular habitat some organisms can survive well, some survive less well, and some cannot survive at all.

Learning Objectives

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

- **Define** the concepts of environment, habitat, and ecosystem
- **Identify** biotic (living) and abiotic (non-living) factors in an environment
- **Differentiate** between various terrestrial and aquatic habitats such as deserts, tundras, and



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Materials Needed: (all links are included in this PDF)

- Study Guide (<https://newpathworksheets.com/api/guide/study-guide-science-grade-3-where-plants-and-animals-live.pdf>)
- Practice Worksheet 1 (<https://newpathworksheets.com/api/worksheet/worksheet-science-grade-3-where-plants-and-animals-live-0.pdf>)
- Practice Worksheet 2 (<https://newpathworksheets.com/api/worksheet/worksheet-science-grade-3-where-plants-and-animals-live-1.pdf>)



- Assessment Worksheet (<https://newpathworksheets.com/api/worksheet/worksheet-science-grade-3-where-plants-and-animals-live-2.pdf>)
- Vocabulary Set 1 (<https://newpathworksheets.com/api/vocabulary/vocabulary-science-grade-3-where-plants-and-animals-live-1.pdf>)
- Vocabulary Set 2 (<https://newpathworksheets.com/api/vocabulary/vocabulary-science-grade-3-where-plants-and-animals-live-2.pdf>)

Lesson Procedure

Step 1: Introduction (5 minutes)

- Ask students: 'Why doesn't a polar bear live in the desert, and why doesn't a cactus grow in the arctic?' Discuss their ideas about needs and survival.
- Introduce the concept of an 'Environment' using the first page of the Study Guide.



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[plants-and-animals-live-1.pdf](#)

- Review the answers as a class, clarifying that a population is a group of the same species, while a community includes different species.
- Optionally assign Vocabulary Set 2 as homework or extra practice for students who finish early. (<https://newpathworksheets.com/api/vocabulary/vocabulary-science-grade-3-where-plants-and-animals-live-2.pdf>)

Step 4: Independent Practice (10 minutes)



- Students complete Practice Worksheet 1, focusing on identifying what plants and animals need from their environment. (<https://newpathworksheets.com/api/worksheet/worksheet-science-grade-3-where-plants-and-animals-live-0.pdf>)
- Ask students to circle nonliving things in a list (e.g., sun, air, soil) to reinforce the concept of abiotic factors.
- Provide Practice Worksheet 2 for students to further review ecosystems and populations. (<https://newpathworksheets.com/api/worksheet/worksheet-science-grade-3-where-plants-and-animals-live-1.pdf>)

Step 5: Assessment (10 minutes)

- Administer the Assessment Worksheet as a quiz to assess understanding of specific biome characteristics (e.g., tundra frozen soil, desert heat). (<https://newpathworksheets.com/api/worksheet/worksheet-science-grade-3-where-plants-and-animals-live-2.pdf>)
- Collect worksheets to evaluate if students can link specific adaptations to the correct habitat.



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- Create a 'Habitat Diorama' using a shoebox to represent a Desert, Forest, or Ocean ecosystem.
- Write a short postcard from the perspective of an animal describing its home and challenges.

 Complete List of Available Resources:



- NewPathWorksheets: Where Plants and Animals Live Topic Page (<https://newpathworksheets.com/science/grade-3/where-plants-and-animals-live>)
- Study Guide PDF (<https://newpathworksheets.com/api/guide/study-guide-science-grade-3-where-plants-and-animals-live.pdf>)
- Practice Worksheet 1 PDF (<https://newpathworksheets.com/api/worksheet/worksheet-science-grade-3-where-plants-and-animals-live-0.pdf>)
- Practice Worksheet 2 PDF (<https://newpathworksheets.com/api/worksheet/worksheet-science-grade-3-where-plants-and-animals-live-1.pdf>)
- Assessment Worksheet PDF (<https://newpathworksheets.com/api/worksheet/worksheet-science-grade-3-where-plants-and-animals-live-2.pdf>)
- Vocabulary Set 1 PDF (<https://newpathworksheets.com/api/vocabulary/vocabulary-science-grade-3-where-plants-and-animals-live-1.pdf>)
- Vocabulary Set 2 PDF (<https://newpathworksheets.com/api/vocabulary/vocabulary-science-grade-3-where-plants-and-animals-live-2.pdf>)



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WHERE PLANTS AND ANIMALS LIVE

Environment

An **environment** is everything that surrounds a living thing or person. Everything that lives on Earth lives in a certain environment. Living things get everything they need to survive from their environment. An environment includes living and nonliving things. Examples of nonliving things in an environment are air, water, soil, and the sun. All the parts of environment, both the living and nonliving parts, depend on each other for all living things to survive.

Lesson Checkpoint: What is an environment?



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Habitat

Where do you live? A **habitat** is where living things make their homes and live. A habitat supports a plant or animal, and has everything they need to survive. A plant needs sunlight, air, water, and soil in its environment to survive.



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Lesson Checkpoint: What is a habitat?

Ecosystem

Now think bigger about the world around you...An **ecosystem** is all the parts of an environment that work together, or interact with each other. An example of a living part depending on nonliving parts in an environment: a plant needing soil to grow in. In a rain forest ecosystem, the soil has nutrients for foliage that can survive in the rain forest, such as ferns and certain flowers.

Ecosystems change over time. One part of an ecosystem can change an entire environment. An example of one part of environment changing another part of an environment is when fewer plants grow during winter which means less food for animals. Or when tall trees in a forest are cut down for lumber, which changes the amount of sunlight and shade that the shorter plants receive.

There are many different ecosystems in the world. Climate is an important



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Lesson Checkpoint: What is an ecosystem?



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Grassland

A **Grassland** is an ecosystem that has a lot of grass and flowering plants but not a lot of trees. Grasslands have warm and often hot summers, and cooler and even cold winters. Grasslands also have little rain which is why trees do not grow well in this ecosystem. Trees need damp or wet soil in order to grow and survive. Grasses in a grassland have deep roots which allow them to find water that is deep in the soil. As you can see, this climate supports the plants that live in this ecosystem.



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Tundra

The **tundra** is an ecosystem that is cold and on dry land. The soil of the tundra stays frozen all year long which means no trees are able to grow in this ecosystem. The winter days of the tundra are very short. Some areas of the tundra do not even receive sunlight during the winter. The days during summer last a long time. Some areas of the tundra receive sunshine 24 hours a day in the short summer.



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Wetlands

Some like it wet...The **wetlands** are low lands that are covered by water for some time during the year. Water flows very slowly through a wetland ecosystem.



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Lesson Checkpoint: Name three kinds of ecosystems.



Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

- 1 A(n) _____ is everything that **surrounds** a living thing.

A community
B population
C climate
D environment



- 2 Everything that lives on earth lives in or migrates to a certain environment. **Living organisms get most things they need to survive from their environment.**

A true
B false



- 3 An **environment** includes _____ things.

A both living and nonliving
B only living



- 4 Which **nonliving thing** is needed by every living thing in order to survive? It allows plants to make their own food, and warms the air and water.

A the sun
B the stars



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B ecosystem
C population
D weather



B work separately
C depend on each other
D depend on themselves



- 9 What is an example of a **living part depending on nonliving parts** in an environment?

A the rain needing the sun
B a plant needing soil to grow in
C a flower needing a bee to help pollinate another flower
D a buffalo needing grass to eat

- 10 A(n) _____ is where living things make their **homes** and live.

A population
B ecosystem
C habitat
D community





Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

- 1 A(n) _____ is everything that **surrounds** a living thing.

A community
B population
C climate
D environment



(D)

- 2 Everything that lives on earth lives in or migrates to a certain environment. Living organisms get most things they need to **survive** from their **environment**.

A true
B false



(A)

- 3 An **environment** includes _____ things.

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B only living



(A)

- 4 Which **nonliving thing** is needed by every living thing in order to survive? It allows plants to make their own food, and warms the air and water.

A the sun
B the stars



(A)

5



(A)

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(C)

B ecosystem
C population
D weather



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(B)

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A population
B ecosystem
C habitat
D community



(C)



Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

- 1 What does a **plant** need in its environment to survive?

- A sunlight, air, water, and soil
- B only sunlight
- C sunlight and water
- D only moist soil



- 2 What does an **animal** need in its environment to survive?

- A food only
- B water only
- C soil to grow in
- D food, water, shelter, a space to live



- 3 The **same kind of living things in one area at the same time** is called a(n) _____.

- A population
- B community



- 4 Which is an example of a **population**?

- A a mother and baby bird together
- B two birds in a tree
- C three cats in a yard
- D herds of elephants



5



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- B the stars coming out at night.
- C rain clouds forming in the sky.
- D animals sleeping.

9

A _____ is an **ecosystem** which has a lot of grass and flowering plants but not many trees.

- A forest
- B wetland
- C tundra
- D grassland



10

Grasslands have warm and often hot summers. This climate supports the living things in this ecosystem. What type of **winters** do grasslands have?

- A cooler, even cold winters
- B warm winters
- C rainy winters
- D grasslands do not have winters





Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

- 1 What does a **plant** need in its environment to survive?

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(D)

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(C)

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(A)

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D animals sleeping.

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(A)



Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

1

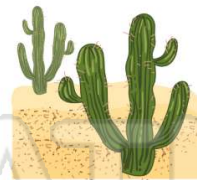
Grasslands have little rain which is why trees do not grow well in this ecosystem. What do **grasses** in a grassland have which allow them to find water that is deep in the soil?

- A** green color **C** large leaves
B large flowers **D** deep roots

2

A _____ is an **ecosystem** that gets very little to no rain each year.

- A** desert
B wetland
C freshwater ecosystem
D forest

**3**

In a **desert** the days are very hot. What are **nights** like in a desert?

- A** snowy
B rainy
C very hot

**4**

Many plants and animals can survive in the **desert** with a small amount of water.

- A** true
B false

**5**

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9

The _____ are **lowlands** that are **covered by water** for some time during the year. Water flows very slowly through this ecosystem.

- A** tundra
B grassland
C saltwater
D wetlands

**10**

Water ecosystems include lakes, rivers, ponds, streams, and oceans. What types of water do water ecosystems include?

- A** only rivers
B only freshwater
C only saltwater
D freshwater, saltwater, or both





Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

1

Grasslands have little rain which is why trees do not grow well in this ecosystem. What do **grasses** in a grassland have which allow them to find water that is deep in the soil?

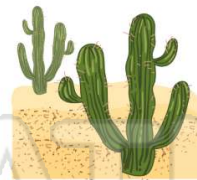
- A** green color **C** large leaves
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(D)

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A _____ is an **ecosystem** that gets very little to no rain each year.

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(A)

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(A)

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(A)

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(A)

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B only freshwater
C only saltwater
D freshwater, saltwater, or both



(D)



Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

Match each of the following terms to its definition:

Environment

Population

Wetland

Community

Desert

Grassland

Habitat

Ecosystem

1. - the place where an organism lives within an ecosystem; where living things make their homes and live; a place that supports a plant or animal and has everything they need to survive



2. - an ecosystem of low lands that are covered by water for some time during the year that is home to a wide variety of organisms



3. and ve



4. intera

5. and th

6.

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7. - an ecosystem with tall grasses but no trees which receives very little rain



8. - a group of organisms of the same species living in the same area at the same time





Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

Match each of the following terms to its definition:

Environment

Population

Wetland

Community

Desert

Grassland

Habitat

Ecosystem

1. habitat - the place where an organism lives within an ecosystem; where living things make their homes and live; a place that supports a plant or animal and has everything they need to survive



2. wetland - an ecosystem of low lands that are covered by water for some time during the year that is home to a wide variety of organisms



3. desert - a small area with very little water

4. community - a group of different organisms living together in the same area

5. ecosystem - the way living and non-living things interact in an area

6. environment - the natural world around us



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7. grassland - an ecosystem with tall grasses but no trees which receives very little rain



8. population - a group of organisms of the same species living in the same area at the same time





Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

Match each of the following terms to its definition:

Grassland
Environment

Desert
Habitat

Wetland
Tundra biome

Population
Ecosystem

1. _____ - the living and nonliving components of an environment and the way they interact with each other and their environment



2. _____ - everything that surrounds a living thing or person



3. _____
receiv



4. _____
same

5. _____
soil is
charac
polar l

6. _____
where
or animal and has everything they need to survive

7. _____ - an ecosystem of low lands that are covered by water for some time during the year that is home to a wide variety of organisms



8. _____ - the driest of all ecosystems where there are few plants and very small amounts of rainfall



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Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

Match each of the following terms to its definition:

Grassland
Environment

Desert
Habitat

Wetland
Tundra biome

Population
Ecosystem

1. ecosystem - the living and nonliving components of an environment and the way they interact with each other and their environment



2. environment - everything that surrounds a living thing or person



3. grassland - a very large area of land with grass

4. population - a group of people living in the same area



5. tundra - a frozen, very cold area

6. habitat - a place where a living animal and has everything they need to survive

7. wetland - an ecosystem of low lands that are covered by water for some time during the year that is home to a wide variety of organisms

8. desert - the driest of all ecosystems where there are few plants and very small amounts of rainfall



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