

# SCHOOLYARD LEARNING

## Habitats Map

**GRADES: 4-7** JUNIOR/INTERMEDIATE - GEOGRAPHY, SOCIAL STUDIES, ART

**LEARNING SKILLS AND WORK HABITS:** Observation, Creating Sense of Place, Mapping

**MATERIALS:** Clipboards, pencils, paper

### ACTIVITY:

1. Collect materials: clipboards, pencils, paper
2. Go outside and walk the school grounds. If permitted, consider exploring a local neighbourhood or park.
3. Observe landmarks that students can add to their maps for orientation.
4. Point out a habitat to the class and describe the living things that live there.
5. Ask the students to observe and record examples of any habitats and/or ecosystems they recognize on the walk.
6. Have students describe the living things in each of their habitats even if they don't know the names.
7. Note impressions.

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**TEACHER PROMPTS:** Ask questions such as: 1) What habitats/ecosystems are in our area that support living things? 2) How are these habitats/ecosystems connected to our lives? 3) What actions affect the ecosystems both positively and negatively? 4) What environmental topics are relevant to our local school community? 5) What is here for human use and what is here for other living things?

### ACTIVITY OPTIONS:

1. Exchange maps with a classmate and see if you can follow it and find the habitats recorded.
2. Have the students add notes to how they use the different habitats during recess or outside of school hours.
3. Ask the students to give fun names to different parts of the school yard.
4. Pick a place in the school yard that is special to your students and have them draw it on their map. Use this space for future schoolyard learning.

<https://www.back2nature.ca/teachers-guide-into-nature-english/>

