

COMMON CORE  
Lessons & Activities

# HABITATS

Reading for Information  
Higher-Order Thinking  
Writing Prompts  
Current Events Analysis  
Vocabulary  
Cause & Effect  
Graphic Organizers  
& More!

**REPRODUCIBLE**

*One teacher is allowed to make copies for use in her/his classroom!*



## About this Book

This Common Core Lessons and Activities Book allows you to immediately meet new Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts, as well as Literacy and Writing in History/Social Studies. It is designed to supplement your Social Studies resources, adding new Common Core rigor, analysis, writing, inference, text-dependent questions, and more into your daily instruction.

## How to Use this Book:

- Work through the lessons and activities as a class to teach your students higher-order thinking, analysis, and 21<sup>st</sup> century skills necessary to meet new Common Core expectations.
- Allow students to work through the lessons independently to build and practice these new skills.
- Include technology, collaboration, presentation, and discussion in the activities as you desire—you can decide how in-depth to go.
- Watch your class develop new abilities to meet the rigor of Common Core State Standards, right before your eyes!

## Tips:

- Use some of the pages—or use them all—based on your grade, your students, your curriculum, and your needs.
- Use the pages at their current size, or if you prefer them to be 8-1/2" x 11", enlarge them 125% on your copy machine.
- Download graphic organizers labeled “GO” in the Table of Contents by going to: [www.gallopade.com/client/go](http://www.gallopade.com/client/go)
- Use the correlations grid to easily see which Common Core standards are covered in each lesson.

# Common Core Lessons & Activities: Habitats

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>What is a Habitat?:</b> Reading Informational Text .....	2
<b>Meeting Basic Needs:</b> Reading Informational Text.....	3
<b>Animal Behaviors:</b> Concepts & Processes <b>G</b> .....	4
<b>Structural Adaptations:</b> Applying Concepts <b>G</b> .....	6
<b>Living Together:</b> Cause & Effect.....	8
<b>The Grays Are Coming!:</b> Reading Informational Text.....	9
<b>Biomes:</b> Compare & Contrast.....	10
<b>Nonliving Factors:</b> Summarizing Information.....	11
<b>Habitats Report:</b> Research Presentation.....	12
<b>Plant Adaptations:</b> Classifying Information.....	14
<b>Biomes and Climate:</b> Interpreting Visual Data .....	15
<b>Rainforest Habitats:</b> Reading Informational Text <b>G</b> .....	16
<b>The Oceans Are Alive:</b> Applying Concepts <b>GO</b> <sup>2</sup> .....	18
<b>Habitat in Crisis!</b> Map Activity.....	20
<b>Political Cartoon:</b> Primary Source Analysis .....	22
<b>Conservation Vocabulary:</b> Problem-Solution-Results <b>G</b> .....	23
<b>Common Core Correlations</b> .....	24

**G:** Includes Graphic Organizer

**GO:** Graphic Organizer is also available 8½" x 11" online  
download at [www.gallopade.com/client/go](http://www.gallopade.com/client/go)

(numbers above correspond to the graphic organizer numbers online)

# Animal Behaviors

Read the text and answer the questions.

Animals live in a habitat where they can meet their basic needs. However, basic needs don't usually just "show up." Usually, animals must work very hard in order to survive. As a result, many animals have developed specific behaviors to help. These behavior adaptations can help them meet their basic needs, and they can give them an advantage over predators or prey in their habitat. Behavior adaptations usually develop over a very long period of time—usually over many generations. However, the more intelligent an animal is, the quicker it is able to adapt its behavior.

One way some animals adapt their behaviors is by working as part of a group. For example, ants work as a group, called a colony, to gather food and build a home. Wolves hunt as a group, called a pack, to surround and catch their prey. Buffalo travel in groups, called herds, to protect themselves from predators.

Another way some animals adapt their behavior is by migrating. Migration is the movement of an animal from one habitat to another. For example, geese cannot survive in the cold, so when winter approaches, they fly to a warmer habitat. When Grey Whales are ready to give birth, they migrate from the cold Arctic Ocean to warm water off the coast of Mexico. Animals may also migrate in search of food, water, or shelter.

Many animals adapt their behavior by using resources in their habitats to build shelters. For example, polar bears dig ice dens in the snow. Mice and moles dig burrows in the ground. And, beavers build lodges made from sticks and tree branches.

Hibernation is another way that animals adapt their behavior. In cold climates, some mammals hibernate, or take a "long nap," during the coldest months. Most bears eat a lot during the fall to build up body fat. Then, when winter arrives, they crawl into a cave and sleep for several months. While they hibernate, their body functions slow down so they use much less energy than if they were active, and they rely on their extra fat for energy while they sleep.

Other animal behavior adaptations include "sunning" to warm body temperature and "playing dead" to avoid predators.

1. Define behaviors as it is used in the text.
2. Why do animals adapt their behaviors?
3. To complete the table, list five animal behaviors and explain how each behavior helps animals with that adaptation to survive in their habitat.

Behavior	How Helps With Survival

4. *Humans adapt their behavior to their habitat too.*

For each scenario, name the type of behavior adaptation demonstrated and explain its purpose:

- Native American tribes in the Great Plains region of the U.S. used to move their camp from place to place in search of buffalo.*
- In the mid to late 1800s, pioneers who traveled to the Midwest often built homes out of sod “blocks” because there were no trees to cut to build the traditional wooden houses they were used to.*
- Many Canadians have Florida vacation homes they go to during the winter.*
- When you have a fever, it’s usually good to stay home and get lots of rest so your body can fight off germs and get well.*
- You are part of a community.*

**Writing Prompt:** Imagine you have left Europe to be one of the first colonists to come to America. Use what you know about colonial American history, and what you read about animal behavior adaptations in the text, to write a first-person narrative describing your new “habitat” and at least three ways you might adapt your behavior based on your new habitat.

# Rainforest Habitats

Read the texts and answer the questions.

Rainforests usually have four distinct layers. The habitats of plants and animals are very different from one layer to the next.

## *October 16: Our Trip to the Amazon Rainforest*


It was so hot and humid on the forest floor that sweat trickled down my face. Only 2% of sunlight comes through the forest canopy, so the forest floor was dark. Small ground plants that are suited to little sunlight grow here, as well as moss and mushrooms. I stepped carefully. You never know what might be hiding under the leaves and fallen logs—hairy tarantulas, beetles and other insects, or even slithering anacondas. Our guide told us that large mammals like gorillas and anteaters live on the forest floor, too.

Then, we climbed a rope ladder up into the forest's understory. The understory is above the ground, but below the trees' canopy. Small trees and shrubs here catch the 2-15% of sunlight that shines through. The understory is a dim place where most of the insects live. I saw several types of snakes living here, as well as bright green and orange tree frogs! Luckily, we didn't see any jaguars that like to climb into the understory—yikes!

We climbed higher to reach the forest's canopy, a thick covering of branches and leaves near the top of the rainforest. Breezes from above cooled the canopy and made the air a little less humid. High in the branches, vines and many other air plants (plants that don't need soil) grow. The trees' branches and leaves are so close together they absorb approximately 80% of the sunlight. Animals like monkeys and sloths can travel from branch to branch for more than 60 miles without touching the ground!

Climbing to the very tops of the tallest trees, we reached the emergent layer. This habitat contains only the tallest parts of the tallest trees. It was very sunny at the top. I could hear small monkeys calling from tree to tree. Butterflies and other small insects buzzed about and different types of birds chirped cheerily. Our guide told us that bats come out at night to eat the insects.

1. What does the name “rainforest” tell you about this biome?
2. Complete the graphic organizer by identifying the four layers of the rainforest and the plants and animals that are found in each layer.

<i>Rainforest layers</i>		<i>Animals in each layer</i>

3. Why do the bottom layers only receive a limited amount of sunlight?
4.
  - A. Explain how the amount of sunlight affects the types of plants that are found in each layer.
  - B. Explain how the amount of sunlight affects the types of plants that are found in each layer.
5. Use the text and make inferences to list at least three factors that cause rainforest habitats to vary from one layer to the next.

## PROBLEM-SOLUTION-RESULTS

# Conservation Vocabulary

Read the text and complete the vocabulary activity.

Plant and animal habitats are delicate and can be easily destroyed. Some habitat loss is natural, but most is caused by human activities. The actions that occur in one place can negatively affect animals, plants, and humans in other places in the world!

However, people can make positive differences too. As an informed, active citizen, you can consider the effect on habitats when you make personal buying and lifestyle choices; you can affect your community's choices by voting or participating in government; you can volunteer for habitat-helping causes; and you can directly or indirectly help habitats through your future career!

1. Complete the graphic organizer for each word or phrase.

conservation      pesticides      deforestation      pollution  
environmentalism      preservation      over-population      recycling  
littering      sustainability      emissions      wastefulness

DEFINITION	FACTS/CHARACTERISTICS
<b>WORD</b>	
<b>HOW IT RELATES TO HABITATS</b>	

2. Classify each vocabulary word as either a **PROBLEM** that contributes to habitat loss, or as a **SOLUTION** that can help avoid or reduce habitat loss, and write it in the correct column on the table below.

PROBLEMS	SOLUTIONS



# Correlations to Common Core State Standards

For your convenience, correlations are listed page-by-page, and for the entire book!

This book is correlated to the Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts grades 3-8, and to Common Core State Standards for Literacy in History, Science, & Technological Subjects grades 6-8.

Correlations are highlighted in gray.

PAGE #	READING										WRITING										LANGUAGE						SPEAKING & LISTENING									
	Includes: RI: Reading Informational Text RST: Reading Science & Technical Subjects										Includes: W: Writing WHST: Writing History/Social Studies, Science, & Technical Subjects										Includes: L: Language LF: Language Foundational Skills						Includes: SL: Speaking & Listening									
2	RI	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	W	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	L	1	2	3	4	5	6	SL	1	2	3	4	5	6
	RST											WHST											LF													
3	RI	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	W	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	L	1	2	3	4	5	6	SL	1	2	3	4	5	6
	RST											WHST											LF													
4-5	RI	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	W	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	L	1	2	3	4	5	6	SL	1	2	3	4	5	6
	RST											WHST											LF													
6-7	RI	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	W	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	L	1	2	3	4	5	6	SL	1	2	3	4	5	6
	RST											WHST											LF													
8	RI	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	W	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	L	1	2	3	4	5	6	SL	1	2	3	4	5	6
	RST											WHST											LF													
9	RI	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	W	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	L	1	2	3	4	5	6	SL	1	2	3	4	5	6
	RST											WHST											LF													
10	RI	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	W	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	L	1	2	3	4	5	6	SL	1	2	3	4	5	6
	RST											WHST											LF													
11	RI	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	W	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	L	1	2	3	4	5	6	SL	1	2	3	4	5	6
	RST											WHST											LF													
12-13	RI	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	W	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	L	1	2	3	4	5	6	SL	1	2	3	4	5	6
	RST											WHST											LF													
14	RI	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	W	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	L	1	2	3	4	5	6	SL	1	2	3	4	5	6
	RST											WHST											LF													
15	RI	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	W	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	L	1	2	3	4	5	6	SL	1	2	3	4	5	6
	RST											WHST											LF													
16-17	RI	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	W	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	L	1	2	3	4	5	6	SL	1	2	3	4	5	6
	RST											WHST											LF													
18-19	RI	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	W	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	L	1	2	3	4	5	6	SL	1	2	3	4	5	6
	RST											WHST											LF													
20-21	RI	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	W	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	L	1	2	3	4	5	6	SL	1	2	3	4	5	6
	RST											WHST											LF													
22	RI	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	W	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	L	1	2	3	4	5	6	SL	1	2	3	4	5	6
	RST											WHST											LF													
23	RI	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	W	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	L	1	2	3	4	5	6	SL	1	2	3	4	5	6
	RST											WHST											LF													
COMPLETE BOOK	RI	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	W	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	L	1	2	3	4	5	6	SL	1	2	3	4	5	6
	RST											WHST											LF													

For the complete Common Core standard identifier, combine your grade + "." + letter code above + "." + number code above.

*In addition to the correlations indicated here, the activities may be adapted or expanded to align to additional standards and to meet the diverse needs of your unique students!*

# Common Core Lessons & Activities Books

## Social Studies Titles:

- Declaration of Independence
- U.S. Constitution
- Bill of Rights
- Road to the Civil War
- The Civil War: Key Battles & Events
- Jamestown
- Key Events of World War II
- Civil Rights Movement
- Branches of Government
- Basic Economic Concepts
- Women's Suffrage and the 19th Amendment
- The American Revolution
- Explorers
- The Olympics
- Underground Railroad
- Forms of Government: Democracy, Monarchy, & Oligarchy & More
- Ancient Greece
- Ancient Egypt
- Native Americans
- Indian Removal & the Trail of Tears
- Inventors & Inventions
- Map Skills
- Westward Expansion
- Communities

## Science Titles:

- Habitats
- States of Matter
- Cell Structure
- Weather
- Water Cycle
- Energy
- Solar System
- Sound
- Mammals
- Light
- Rocks and Minerals
- Oceans
- Heredity & Genetics
- Magnetism
- Natural Resources
- Ecosystems
- Force & Motion
- History of the Earth
- Life Cycles
- Wave Properties
- Landforms
- Classification of Organisms
- Electricity
- The Scientific Method

# COMMON CORE Lessons & Activities

Are you expected to change how you teach because of new CCSS for English Language Arts & new CCSS for Literacy and Writing in History/Social Studies and Science?

Are you expected to continue to meet existing science and social studies standards, AND integrate new, more rigorous expectations for reading, writing, analysis, inference, and more into your daily instruction?

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Uncommon  
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