

Activity #19: *The Tale of Chipilo*

Habitats & Texas Ecoregions Project

Materials Needed:

- Poster boards (1 per team) or large white paper
- Construction paper or other colored paper
- Crayons or markers
- Pictures of birds from bird magazines, bird coloring books or computer internet sites
- Books on trees, flowers and other plants (with pictures)

Pre Lab Activity:

Review “Habitats for Plants and Animals” and “Ecoregions of Texas” PowerPoint presentations with the class.

Activity (45-50 minutes):

Divide students into 2-6 teams

Each team selects a habitat or ecoregion and makes a poster of it. Posters should be simple and represent only major characteristics of the habitat or ecoregion. An example is included. Pictures of plants, animals and nonliving things associated with a particular habitat or ecoregion should appear on the poster.

Students may use construction paper or other colored paper to cut out examples of characteristics of the habitat they have chosen or they may use magazines or other available pictures to put on the poster. Coloring books with outlines of bird pictures, free clip art pictures, magazine pictures or drawings also may be used to produce pictures for the poster.

When all teams have completed their projects, they should be presented to the class by each team. Then post the pictures around the room where they are visible to everyone. Pass out the assessment form to each team. Team members may work together to fill out the evaluation form. They may use the posters for help.

Alternate Activities:

- Have students create a powerpoint presentation or poster for a take home project on habitats and ecoregions (each student select one) and present the presentation on selected habitat or ecoregion to the class.
- Have students select an endangered bird species to create a powerpoint presentation or poster on. It should include information about the habitat and/or ecoregion where the bird lives. Students present their presentation to the class.

Alignment:

Grade 3 (red)

Grade 4 (blue)

Grade 5 (green)

Grade 6 (purple)

English Language Arts & Reading student expectations: 25(A,B), 26(A); 23(A,B), 24(A); 23(A,B), 26(A,C); 12(B), 22(A,B), 25(A,C), 26(C)

Mathematics student expectations: N/A

Science student expectations: 9(A); 7(C), 9(A); 9(A-D); 12(E,F)

Social studies student expectations: 4(A,D) 17(A-C,E), 18(A-C); 7(B), 9(C), 21(A-C), 22(A-E); 7(B), 24(A-C), 25(A-E); 3(A,B), 4(D), 6(A,B), 21(A-C), 22(A-F)

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Terms and Examples:

Habitats:

Grassland or Prairie—A type of habitat with grasses, flowers, butterflies, prairie dogs, grasshoppers, bison, and prairie chickens

Grasses: big bluestem, little bluestem, switchgrass, Indiangrass, grama grasses

Wildflowers: Gay Feather, milkweed, daisies, coneflowers, basketflower, horsemint, paintbrush, rattlesnake master, asters, thistles, prairie smoke, prairie parsley, sunflowers, prairie smoke, prairie plantain, green milkweed, antelope horn milkseed, Missouri evening primrose, partridge pea, wild indigo, tall goldenrod, compass plant, rosin weed, Maximilian sunflower, sneezeweed, gumweed, coreopsis, butterfly milkweed, pink evening primrose, obedient plant, lemon horsemint, prairie phlox, prairie rose gentian, prairie larkspur, winecup or poppy mallow, snow on the mountain, rain lily

Shrubs: Thicket plum

Savannah—A grassland with trees and shrubs clumped together like small islands

Trees: live oak & Ashe juniper in Edwards Plateau, elsewhere post oak, blackjack oak, black, bur and chinkapin oaks in Midwest

Shrubs: plum, cherry, sumac, elderberry, deciduous holly, black cherry

Grasses: bluestems, grama grasses; wild rye grasses, dropseed and love grasses

Wildflowers: prairie verbena, black-eyed susan, penstemon, clovers, bergamont, bluebonnet, Indian paintbrush, Indian blanket, mealy sage, plains blackfoot daisy, Englemann daisy

Deciduous Forest—A forest with trees that lose leaves in the fall

Trees: ash, oak, maple, hickory, beech

Wildflowers: oxlip, bluebells, painted trillium, primrose

Lakes and Ponds—Freshwater habitats that are mostly permanent and not flowing water. Animals include dragonflies and damselflies, fish, frogs, tadpoles and turtles

Trees & Shrubs: willows, buttonbush, white oak

Aquatic Plants: water lilies, sedges, cattails, reeds, pondweed, elodea, algae, wild rice, pickerel weed

Flowers: Bluecurls

Rivers and Streams, Riparian—Freshwater habitats with flowing water and trees along the banks of the floodplain

Trees: cypress, sycamore, cottonwood, willow, pecan, soapberry

Shrubs: buttonbush, elderberry

Grasses: Canada and Virginia wildrye, wood oats, inland sea oats

Mixed Pine Forest—A forest of pine (evergreen) and deciduous trees

Trees: like oak, elm, pine, ash, sweet gum, redbud, dogwood

Flowers: like violets, orchids, jasmine, gentians, wisteria, spiderwort

Shrubs: like beautyberry, yaupon, buckeye, sumac, gum, Bumelia, ferns

Coastline or Ocean Shore—An area with salt water, waves and sand dunes

Grasses: sea Oats, seacoast bluestem, coastal dropseed, white-topped umbrella sedge, marsh hay cordgrass

Flowers: beach tea, fiddleleaf morning glory, sea oxeye daisy, beach morning glory, beach evening primrose, goldenrod, seaside heliotrope

Marshes, Swamps, Bogs & Wetlands – Freshwater habitat that is a shallow body of water that does not flow and may not be permanent

Wildflowers: spiderlilies, lady slippers, duckweed, smartweed, pickerelweed, pitcher plant, sundew, blue flag, marsh marigold, sea lavender, joe-pye weed, ladies tresses, swamp milkweed

Grasses, Rushes & Sedges: umbrella sedge, bulrush, cordgrass, cattail, spikerush, fragrant, flatsedge, marshhay cordgrass, saltgrass

Shrubs: blueberry, azalea, laurel, wax myrtle, boneset, alder, swamp rose, elderberry, mangrove, rattlebox bush, palmetto, marsh elder

Trees: tupelo, cypress, birch, green ash

Desert—A habitat of low rainfall and plants adapted to living without much water like cactus and yucca. Vegetation is low and sparse (spread apart)

Trees & Shrubs: desert willow, yucca, century plant, lechuguilla, ocotillo, rhatany, catclaw, acacia, whitebrush, sage, mesquite, creosote, saltbush, desert holly, candelilla, sotol, catclaw, mimosa, feather dalea, Mexican buckeye, cenizo, agarita, whitethorn acacia, mormon tea, guayacan, lotebush, desert sumac, madrone, joshua tree, blackbrush

Cacti: prickly pear, barrel cactus, cholla, Christmas cactus, rainbow cactus, claret cup cactus, strawberry cactus, fishhook cactus, eagle claw cactus

Flowering Plants: apache plume, scarlet musk flower, range ratany, globe mallow, desert poppy, yellow rocknettle, esperanza (yellow trumpet flower), desert marigold, wooly paper, flower, skeleton leaf goldeneye, mariposa lily

Endangered Species: An animal or plant listed by the state or federal government as being in danger of becoming extinct. Endangered species may not be hunted, harmed, captured, collected, bought, sold or kept in captivity.

The Endangered Species Act: a law of the federal government that provides for protection of critical habitat. Each endangered species has a plan for the recovery of the species.

Threatened Species: Any animal or plant that is likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future.

Critical Habitat: Habitat required for the survival and recovery of threatened or endangered species.