

Home: Where the Habitat Is! On-Site Activity Summary

Grade 3

Scientists who study various bodies of water not only collect samples of the water for testing, but also often collect organisms that live in and around the area. These organisms can provide a considerable amount of information about the area including the quality of the water, types of habitat, and the relationships between various organisms.

Scientists collect, sort, and identify the various aquatic and terrestrial invertebrates that thrive around a particular body of water. They are able to study the individual characteristics of the aquatic organism, body shape, size and other characteristics, and these provide clues to the scientists, clues about the health of the body of water as well as clues about where these various organisms live and what their roles are in the ecosystem.

In this lesson, students will collect and identify the inhabitants that live in and around various bodies of water and explore and experiment with the use of a variety of different tools used by aquatic scientists. The students will investigate a variety of aquatic invertebrates as they explore differences and similarities in the body types of these insects, and they will make observations about how the insects are able to have their basic needs met. The students will also be provided a brief review of the concepts of habitat and niche.



TEKS CONNECTIONS:

Science TEKS – Third Grade:

3.4 (A) – Students will collect and analyze information using tools including microscopes and hand lenses.

3.8 (A) – Students will observe and describe the habitats of organisms within an ecosystem.

3.8 (C) – Students will describe environmental changes in which some organisms would thrive, become ill or perish.

Fun Facts:

- Over 75% of all animals on the earth are insects.
- Aquatic insects are those that live in water.
- Terrestrial insects are those that live on land.
- A niche is the ecological role or position that a living thing or a group of things occupies in an ecosystem.

