Extension Activity
Schoolyard Habitat Scavenger Hunt

You and your students can go on your very own Habitat Scavenger Hunt. All you need to do is select two different places at your school site that you can explore and compare.

Each group of 4 students needs:

- Hula hoop or piece of string tied to make a 3-foot circle
- Piece of paper
- Clipboard
- Camera (optional)



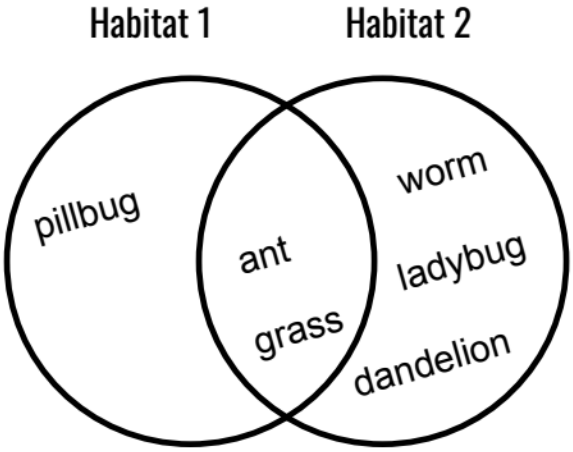
Instructions:

1. Bring students outside. Have each group of students set their hula hoop or string circle on the ground in whatever area you have chosen as “Habitat #1.”
2. Each group of students should write the name of any animals or plants that they find. They can also draw pictures. If cameras are available, they can take photos.
3. After 10-15 minutes, have student groups repeat their observations in the area that you have chosen as “Habitat 2.”
4. Return to the classroom for a discussion.

Discussion:

To facilitate discussion with your class, we suggest drawing a Venn Diagram and listing all the organisms found only in Habitat 1, only in Habitat 2, and organisms found in both habitats.

- *Which habitat is more diverse?*
- *Are there animals or plants found in both habitats?*
- *Is there anything else about the habitat that would explain why one may be more diverse than another?* (eg. availability of sunlight or water)



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If you are in a state that has adopted the NGSS and/or the NGSS Framework:

The table below indicates the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) Performance Expectation that is aligned to this extension activity. Beside the performance expectation is the Science & Engineering Practice (SEP), Disciplinary Core Idea (DCI), and Crosscutting Concept (CCC) that is the focus for this extension.

Performance Expectation
2-LS4-1. Make observations of plants and animals to compare the diversity of life in different habitats.

Performance Expectation	Science and Engineering Practices	Disciplinary Core Ideas	Crosscutting Concepts
PE	SEP	DCI	CCC
2-LS4-1	Planning and Carrying Out Investigations	LS4.D. Biodiversity and Humans	N/A [PE does not have a CCC]