

# Build a Nature Park!

This extended learning assignment is based on Next Generation Science Standards for 2<sup>nd</sup> grade but can be adapted for other grades.

## BACKGROUND FOR TEACHERS AND PARENTS

<b>NGSS Disciplinary Core Ideas addressed</b>
LS2.A: Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems ETS1.B: Developing Possible Solutions
<b>NGSS Science and Engineering practices addressed:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Developing and Using Models (i.e., diagram, drawing, physical replica, diorama, dramatization, or storyboard)</li></ul>

**LESSON THEME:** As humans work to create more cooperative relationships with the natural world, it is important to make sure we are creating and protecting spaces that share habitat, resources, and space adequately with Nature.

**LESSON GOAL:** Students will get to creatively design a nature park that humans and wild animals can share and that will include the basic things plants and animals need to live.



**LESSON DESCRIPTION:** Begin the lesson by helping students identify the basic needs of plants and animals (**food, water, shelter, space to roam for animals and water, soil, and sunlight for plants**). Students can look at images or films of animals in the wild to make their observations and to get ideas about their park designs. If possible, take kids outside to observe plants and animals first-hand. Then they will imagine and draw their own Nature park. It's fun to wrap-up the activity by putting everyone's pictures up around the room and letting students do a gallery walk to see each other's ideas. Give students an opportunity to verbally share their process and ideas if they choose to.

**LESSON DELIVERABLES:** Students will create a simple list of all the things animals and plants need to survive and thrive (mentioned above). A worksheet is attached but you can carry this identification activity out in any way you like. Then students will draw a picture of their imagined Nature Park showing how they create space for plants and animals, **including a water source, places for at least three animals to live, and examples of food** (i.e. grasses for deer and rabbits, fruit trees for small mammals and some birds, fish in a pond, etc.). As an extension, have students include features that allow humans to share the space too, like sitting areas and pathways.

**SUPPLIES:** large blank sheet of paper for drawing, attached worksheet, crayons or paints, pencils



Write a list of the things plants and animals need to live. Then in your mind, create a nature park that has all these important things in it. What does it look like? What will you name it? Then draw a picture of your Nature Park!

<b>BASIC NEEDS</b>	
<b>PLANTS</b> 	<b>ANIMALS</b> 
1.)	1.)
2.)	2.)
3.)	3.)
	4.)