

Today on Slough School: Habitats

Video Transcript

Welcome back on Slough School! I am still Clare and I still work for the Columbia Slough Watershed Council as the Slough School Educator. And I'm really excited to bring you this next lesson about this word here, habitats. So I want us to brainstorm really quickly, about what are habitats? What do we think of? Any connections that we're making with habitats? I'm going to let you take a second real quick here, if you want to pause the video and brainstorm/think of some of these things. Like what you think a habitat might be or some connections that we make? I'll wait right here for you.

Welcome back so one of the things I think about with habitats is ... or the connections I make with it is I think of animals or other living things. I think of animals that live in the water compared to the land. I also think about things that they [animals] need, which I'm gonna talk about more. What are habitats? That's a really good question, here Slough School this is our definition of habitats. Habitats are a place where an animal can get what it needs to survive, and that word survive is really important. Some people have heard of it, some people haven't. So surviving or to survive is to continue to live especially when in danger or with challenges. With habitats, there's five primary things that animals need to survive and I want us to think really quickly about what these five things could be or even just some of them, if you know? One of the things animals need is water, for drinking or for living in. Another thing animals need is food. Another is shelter, a place to live. Animals need air or oxygen, and this is a really important difference here as there's oxygen in the air we breathe and even sometimes the fish (who don't use air or don't use air as much) they still need oxygen in the water to help them live. And then space, we're not thinking about this little astronaut human here out in outer space exploring, but we're thinking about space to live and to spread apart. Because sometimes you need a little bit of space and animals need that too!

So my question for you all, is are all habitat types the same? So will we be able to find water, food, oxygen, space, and shelter in all different habitats? So if we were looking at Portland and then we looked at Eastern Oregon (which is a high desert), would we find the same amount of water? No. Well would we find the same type of foods? No. Different types of shelter and different levels of space? Like if you think of people who live in Portland, there's a lot of people who live really, really close together. Then in the Eastern Oregon Oregon, or even at the coast they are really, really spread out. There is still oxygen everywhere so that doesn't really change as much. But these four other things change a lot more, so we're gonna explore that a little bit more when we go into Oregon's different habitat types or ecoregions.

Here's my map of Oregon that I drew from memory, and here are the four different regions that the Columbia Slough [CSWC] uses. So we have the Oregon coast range or the Oregon coast, right over here there's Astoria. That's where I'm from, that's my hometown! Over here, we have Portland in this green ecoregion is called the Willamette Valley. This yellow ecoregion over here (I think Salem is somewhere in here) it is called the Cascade Range. And over in this large section, we have Eastern Oregon or deserts. There's multiple different types of deserts. Over here in the Cascade Range, it's made up of multiple

different mountain regions, and different regions and valleys within there. Willamette Valley is over here, and in the coast range we have our nearshore as well. So like next to the beach that's a different ecoregion than up in the mountains at the coast. But for simplicity sake we've broken it down into four different areas, and so I want to talk about those things that we need. Those five things that we need in this world for animals to survive; our water, our food, our shelter, our oxygen, and our space. So this is why I wanted to talk about [the question], are all habitats the same? And no, they're really not. Because over here, this has a lot of space right? But does it have a lot of water? No. It doesn't have as much food, depending on what you eat. There's some shelter, I mean shelter depends on the animal. Over in the Willamette Valley, is there a lot of water? Yeah, there's a lot of water. There isn't as much space though, and there's different types of shelter that you can find here.

So in these areas, I want us to talk about two very specific animals. So we have our four different ecoregions, and to talk about why different habitat types have different things in them and why all of these bigger sections are not the same. We are going to look at two specific animals, we're gonna look at the Pacific Chorus Frog (which likes to hang out on the Oregon coast and the Willamette Valley) and then we're going to look at the White Tailed Jackrabbit (that likes to hang out in Eastern Oregon or in high deserts). We're going to be talking about food, both of them need food. Jackrabbits usually eat grass, stages, and brush, sometimes roots. The Pacific Chorus Frog likes to eat spiders, insects, and algae. They both need oxygen to survive, it's kind of important. Sometimes elevation or how high they are/how high up they are will change that. They both need shelter. Pacific Chorus Frogs have and use a lot of water for shelter, they like to live in ponds where they can stay nice and wet. Their skin as wet, it's super important for them to find shelter near the places where they live most of their lives. Little White Tailed Jackrabbits, umm fun fact -

I'mma going to draw this on here. They actually, I thought they [White Tailed Jackrabbits] made dens, but when I was researching this (dens are burrows underground, like that but there's little entrance they go and they sleep in here, they come out). What White Tailed Jackrabbits actually do, is there's like little dents in the earth where they'll just like sleep in here and they'll hang out in here. Then they will go out and do their things and return to this area at night. That's why sometimes you might find some bunnies that look like they're just being left on the grass, but the parent bunny is actually going to come back for them. It's just it's a little confusing for them, 'cause they don't actually burrow (sometimes). Like that they don't go underground, they just hang out on the top of the ground.

-So the two main factors that we are still missing out on or even talked about quite yet is water and space. These two things. On the Oregon Coast and the Willamette Valley it gets a lot, a lot of water compared to the high desert in Eastern Oregon right? So Pacific Chorus Frogs, they spend most of their time in the water. They need water to mate. They need water to find shelter, to find their food. They need water in a large part of their life, and to have little baby Pacific chorus frogs! White Tailed Jackrabbits, they don't need water as much. They need water sometimes, like only for when they're drinking it and other ways around that. But not as much as a Pacific Chorus Frog, so I am going to put water over here with the Pacific Chorus Frog, 'cause it needs it a lot more. So then space, if we look at this area let's just say the Pacific Chorus Frog is in this area compared to this whole area. They don't need as much space, they can be really really close together, right? The White Tailed Jackrabbit needs a

bunch of space to find food, to find shelter and to everything it needs. So we're going to put the space over with the White Tailed Jackrabbit because Eastern Oregon tends to have more space than the Coast Range or in the Willamette Valley in terms of animals.

Welcome back to the activity portion of Slough School! So today on Slough School, we have learned about habitat (a place where an animal gets what it needs to survive). We've learned about the different habitat types in Oregon and we use 2 examples (or case studies) of the Pacific Chorus Frog and the White Tailed Jackrabbit to learn about the different things these animals need. So today we're going to be drawing a habitat and we're going to be finding/researching and finding all these things that different animals need to survive. We're going to find their water. We're going to find their food, their space, their shelter, and their oxygen source. Where they get oxygen, either if they breathe it in through the air or if they live in the water and they breathe through gills instead. So with this, please pick an animal you can find in the Slough. I will include a little slideshow in the link of this video, if you want some animals to draw. I will wait right here for you and I'll do mine and you'll do yours and we can look at them together afterwards!

So welcome back! I hope that your drawings went well. So I did a Chinook Salmon, which you can find in the parts of the Slough. Here's my little fish! And so the water, it lives in the water so I drew water around it. Its food source are these macroinvertebrates, which are things that are big enough for us to see with our eyes and they have no spine. They like to hang out in the water, they're kind of like - water skippers are a type of macro invertebrates. We have the air or the oxygen, because fish live in the water they have gills (right there) which help them breathe in. So I drew little bubbles in the water to signify oxygen. The shelter, so Chinook salmon smolts like to hang out in kind of grassy areas that way they can be hidden from other things that might try to eat them. And then space, they like a large amount of space so it's just kind of chilling out before it heads out to the ocean. So that's my drawing, I would love to see your drawings, if you want to post them on our Facebook page the Columbia Slough Watershed Council Facebook page. Please tag them #SloughSchoolOnline.

So let's do a quick wrap up of what we learned in this lesson of Slough School. We asked the question, what are habitats? We learned that habitats are a place where an animal gets what it needs to survive. We learned that surviving is to continue to live especially when in danger or challenges. In a habitat there are five things animals need to survive. There's water, food, shelter, oxygen/air and space. We also learned - I drew a map of Oregon and we learned that there are four types [of ecoregions] that the Columbia Slough uses the Oregon coast, Willamette Valley, the Cascade Range, and Eastern Oregon. All of these habitats are different depending on which animals live where, and they need different things. Additionally, we did a drawing of 'What's That Animal?' and I drew a little Chinook Salmon. My little baby, so cute! We drew what they need to survive their food, their water, shelter, air or oxygen in the water, and all this fun stuff. So next week on Slough School, we will be learning about animal adaptations and instead of looking at something that animals have in their environment. We're going to be looking at something that animals have on their bodies or do with their bodies to help them survive.