

Lesson 1: Create a species/habitat center by the classroom window.

Create the center together as a class so the students take responsibility for the center. Have a discussion with the class and decide what animals, birds, and plants they think or know live in the school area. Make a poster to put around the window to help students identify the species and habitat they see. Have the students write down what they see when they are looking out of the window. Keep a notebook and pencils located near the window. Label the top of the page with the date, time, season, species, location, and activity. Throughout the school year discuss with the students what they are seeing. For example, “Why are the birds on the ground this spring?” or “If polar bears live in the cold, why don’t they come here in the winter?” maybe “Why are the crows always hanging around the garbage after lunch?”. Throughout the year adapt the view by hanging bird feeders or by creating a garden for wildlife. A camera would be an additional manipulative to keep next to the window so the students could take pictures of what they see. Have the students create a classroom collage using the pictures and sentences written by the student who took the picture explaining what they see in it. This activity has no borders and can be easily adapted to fit the needs of your students and school.