



Wildlife Project Brief

Learning Objectives

- Identify common Missouri mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians
- Learn the four basic habitat requirements of all animals.
- Recognize the differences of the main 3 eco-regions found in Missouri
- Learn species-specific wildlife management principles
- Apply knowledge gained by developing or improving wildlife habitat

Fair Projects

- Poster illustrating the 6 stages of plant succession. (personal photos or hand drawn)
- Map of Missouri illustrating the 3 Eco-regions
- Birdhouse, bat house, feeder, roost/perch, other habitat improvement item you have made.
- Before & after (during) photos/notebook of a wildlife habitat project you organized
- Collection of plaster animal tracks
- Watch list/logbook of wildlife you have seen.
- Collection of mammal skulls, duck wings, etc.
- Taxidermy exhibit
- Wildlife photo collection

Demonstration Ideas

- Making plaster cast of an animal track.
- How to build a bat house
- How to make a suet feeder
- Skull characteristics used in identification of mammals.
- Preserving a duck wing (or other game bird)

Field Trips

- Attend a controlled burn workshop, observe, or participate in a prescribed burn
- Visit a Missouri Department of Conservation Nature Center.
- Attend a Quail Unlimited habitat field day
- Visit a MDC Conservation Area and see the management practices implemented. (Arrange ahead of time with staff).
- Visit the Wonders of Wildlife Museum

Ideas for Speech Topics

- Backyard(or urban) wildlife
- Animal adaptations
- Fire as a habitat management tool
- Endangered/threatened species of Missouri
- Importance of wildlife and wild places to society
- Hunting as a wildlife management tool
- Bringing back Missouri's prairie

Critical Thinking

- What plant succession stage dominates this specific habitat?
- After evaluation, what appears to be the most limiting habitat requirement for this particular site and the featured species?
- Which wildlife management practices would I recommend to meet the landowner objectives?
- Which wildlife species is most likely to prosper in a particular habitat?

Community Service

- Assist in a State Park clean up(or other project)
- Participate in a stream clean up
- Organize & be active as a stream team
- Adopt a Wild Spot – create/maintain a small urban wildlife area at a school, city park, rest home, other public area.(as individual or group)

Science & Technology

Examples of science and technology in this project area:

- Scientific/biological classification (taxonomy) i.e. class, order, family, genus, species
- Ecosystems of the United States, specifically Missouri
- Wildlife management concepts, terms
- Population estimates, sampling methods, wildlife and fish surveys
- Utilizing Geographic Information Systems

Show Me Character

Trustworthiness - includes honesty, promise keeping and loyalty.

- Do what you say you will do
- Only report on animals and plants you have observed
- Exhibit only that which you have done.
- Follow all regulations regarding hunting, fishing, trapping.

Respect – includes courtesy and proper treatment of people and things.

- Observe from a safe distance -don't interfere with animal and plant habitats
- Return natural items to nature once you have recorded your findings
- Don't take or use property without the permission of the owner or Conservation Agent
- Be tolerant of different opinions

Responsibility - includes the pursuit of excellence, accountability and perseverance.

- Accept personal responsibility for your actions and how they affect the environment
- Don't litter, don't destroy natural areas, don't abuse natural resources
- Teach others about taking care of the environment
- Improve habitat for a variety of wildlife species

Fairness – involves consistently applying rules and standards appropriately for different age groups and ability levels.

- Don't monopolize public natural areas and natural resources,
- Allow everyone to experience outdoor areas equally

Caring - promoting the well being of people and things in a young person's world. It denotes action and not just feelings.

- Help keep animal and plant environments clean and safe for all the inhabitants
- Be thankful of those who give their time to you
- Share your knowledge and resources with those less experienced or with less

Citizenship - includes making the home community and county a better place to live for themselves and others.

- Inform yourself and others on critical environmental issues
- Reduce, Reuse, Recycle
- Conserve (use wisely) Missouri's natural resources.

Show Me Standards

Missouri 4-H members will acquire the knowledge and skills to gather, analyze and apply information and ideas, communicate effectively, recognize and solve problems, make decisions and act as responsible members of society.

4-H members will acquire a solid foundation which includes knowledge of:

- **Science** – characteristics and interactions of living organisms; impact of science, technology and human activity on resources and the environment.
- **Communication Arts** - participating in formal and informal presentations and discussions of issues and ideas.

Resources

724 Wildlife

Y620 4-H Project Record
LG7246 WHEP CD (available at your local MU Extension center)

Supplemental project materials for youth

Y7241 Butterfly Gardening and Conservation
Y7242 Landscaping for Backyard Wildlife
Y7243 Woodworking for Wildlife
Y7244 Native Plants for Landscaping
Y7245 Feeding Backyard Birds

Supplemental project materials for leaders

LG7247 Animal Cards/Habitat Cards
LG7248 Bobwhite quail Calls for Help
LG7249 Missouri Prairie Birds
LG7251 Wetlands and Waterfowl

Missouri 4-H Wildlife Project

<http://4h.missouri.edu/go/projects/wildlife/>

To Order

Extension Publications online at <http://extension.missouri.edu/explore/shop/> or by phone at 1-800-292-0969