



## Habitat Lap Sit

This activity has been adapted from Project WILD

### GOALS OF THIS ACTIVITY:

Through this activity, students will explore how different elements in an ecosystem impact biodiversity.

### INSTRUCTIONS:

- Have students stand in a circle and number them from 1-4. Explain what each number represents:
  - 1s represent food
  - 2s represent water
  - 3s represent shelter
  - 4s represent space
- Once everyone has their number, instruct students to stand shoulder to shoulder and then turn their body to face the right. Have students carefully begin to sit down on the knees of the person behind them. This will allow the circle to support itself and students will be held up by each other.
- Begin to introduce problems that will affect the wellbeing of the circle habitat.
  - **Example:** The water supply has been polluted. Have your 2 students begin to move in a way that would disrupt the balance of the circle, i.e., shake their legs, lean left or right, or lift one leg off the ground.
  - After this phenomenon has had an effect on the structure of the circle, and therefore the habitat, ask students to think about what parts of the ecosystem suffered as a result of the water supply being polluted.
  - Continue to introduce situations that would impact the circle's ecosystem. Some of these situations could include urban sprawl (4), soil erosion (1), introduction of invasive species (1,3), or drought (2).



## DISCUSSION PROMPTS:

- After experiencing how different situations effect the balance of students in the circle, ask students to reflect on what this activity reveals about the interrelationship and interdependence within an ecosystem.
- How do humans impact the balance of an ecosystem?
- How can biodiversity be maintained?