



# You and Your School



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*What you can do to help conserve rare, threatened, and endangered species and their habitats*

## **Awareness and Understanding – You and Your Community**

- “Adopt” an endangered species native to your area. Find out how you can help conserve it and inform the citizens in your community, via speeches, newspaper articles, brochures, buttons, signs, videos, etc., about your adopted plant or animal.
- Start a school newspaper to tell others about endangered species.
- Produce public service announcements about environmental issues you care about and distribute them to the media.
- Conduct a community awareness survey. Write a newspaper column for a local paper to educate members of the community about their environment.
- Sponsor an environmental seminar or debate for both students and the community. Topics could include endangered species, water quality, recycling, composting, and environmental alternatives to harmful practices. Invite natural resource professional to help answer questions.
- Identify causes of erosion. Develop and distribute a stream or watershed protection guide.

## **Habitat Restoration**

*(with adult supervision)*

- Plant trees at school on Arbor Day. Invite local officials.
- Replant riverbanks with native plants to anchor the soil and provide wildlife habitat.
- Adopt a stream, wetland, or watershed. Monitor water quality and the health of local plants and animals. Distribute your findings.
- Participate in river clean-ups.

- Plant a garden on your school grounds to attract wildlife, birds, and butterflies.
- Build homes for bats and birds and have the project certified by the National Wildlife Federation’s Backyard Wildlife Habitat Program.
- Adopt an area of your school’s playground and develop a plan to improve it.
- Conduct a public awareness campaign on the threats of nonnative pest species and participate in native plant habitat restoration projects.

## **Sustainable Use of Earth’s Resources**

- Conduct a school energy audit. Brainstorm ways the school could lower energy use.
- Challenge other schools in your community to an energy conservation contest.
- Establish a school energy committee. Read energy conservation tips during morning announcements.
- Conduct a waste audit at school, identifying materials that can be recycled or reused.
- Establish a school organic garden; teach others the techniques you’ve learned.
- Participate in an annual bird count.
- Establish a school composting facility to ‘recycle’ appropriate waste from cafeteria into plant food.

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