

So We Visited a Wildlife Refuge...

1. **Content Area:** Science
2. **Grade Band:** 4-6
3. **State Standard:** Life Science - Students know and understand the characteristics and structure of living things, the processes of life, and how living things interact with each other and their environment
4. **Learning Objective:** Students will compare and contrast the habitat of a Wildlife Refuge located in another state to the habitat found at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge.
5. **Description of Activity:** Students will take notes and photos that document the habitat while on their field trip to the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge.
6. **Duration:** 60-120 minutes
7. **Location:** Refuge trails and Visitor Center exhibits; classroom.
8. **Activity Preparation:** Before visiting the RMANWR, model your description (on posterboard or in a slide presentation) of the habitat for a Refuge found somewhere in the United States.
9. **Materials Needed:** Access to computers or library; poster paper and crayons/markers/paint.
10. **Step-by-Step Instructions:**
 - After you visit the Refuge with your class, explain that there are many wildlife refuges around the country. Each is unique and is habitat to different kinds of plants and animals than were observed at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge. Help students to understand that plants and animals are being protected in each particular refuge.
 - Have them read The Beginner's Guide to the National Wildlife Refuge System:
 - <https://www.fws.gov/story/beginners-guide-national-wildlife-refuge-system> and
 - [https://www.fws.gov/our-facilities?\\$orderby=title%20asc&type=%5B%22National%20Wildlife%20Refuge%22%5D](https://www.fws.gov/our-facilities?$orderby=title%20asc&type=%5B%22National%20Wildlife%20Refuge%22%5D)
 - Break up the students into pairs and ask them to choose a refuge to research.
 - Research the Refuge (You can add or subtract questions.)
 - Where is this refuge located?
 - Why was this refuge created?
 - What are some of the species that use this refuge as a habitat?
 - Why is protecting this land important?

- Students will create a poster that will showcase the species and habitat of their refuge and explain the importance of their refuge to the class. Students will describe three notable differences in habitat between the refuge they selected and the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge.