

Habitat Services



Next Generation Science Standards
Disciplinary Core Idea: LS4.D
Biodiversity and Humans

Populations live in a variety of habitats and change in those habitats affects the organisms living there. (3-LS4-4)

Science and Engineering Practice:

Obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information

Crosscutting Concept:

Stability and change

Common Core State Standards:

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.3.1 Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade 3 topics and texts, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

Students will learn about different types of habitat services that are essential for animal, plant, and human life by closely examining and creating a visual representation of an oak tree habitat.

GUIDING QUESTIONS

- What essential services does a local habitat provide for wildlife and humans?
- What can humans do to ensure these services will be available for future generations?

OBJECTIVE

Students will demonstrate their understanding of the importance of local habitats by examining and discussing the services that an oak tree habitat supplies for local organisms and humans.

VOCABULARY

Habitat - the area where an organism lives and finds the nutrients, water, sunlight, shelter, living space, and other essentials it needs to survive

Organism - an individual animal, plant, or single-celled life form

Pollutant - a substance that renders the air, soil, or water harmful or unsuitable for a specific purpose

MATERIALS

PER STUDENT:

- 1 Oak Tree Habitat handout
- 1 Habitat Organisms handout

PER GROUP:

- 3 pairs of scissors
- 2 sticks or bottles of glue
- Crayons, markers, or colored pencils

PREPARATION

Make one copy of the Oak Tree Habitat and Habitat Organisms handouts for each student. Gather scissors, glue, and coloring materials for each group.

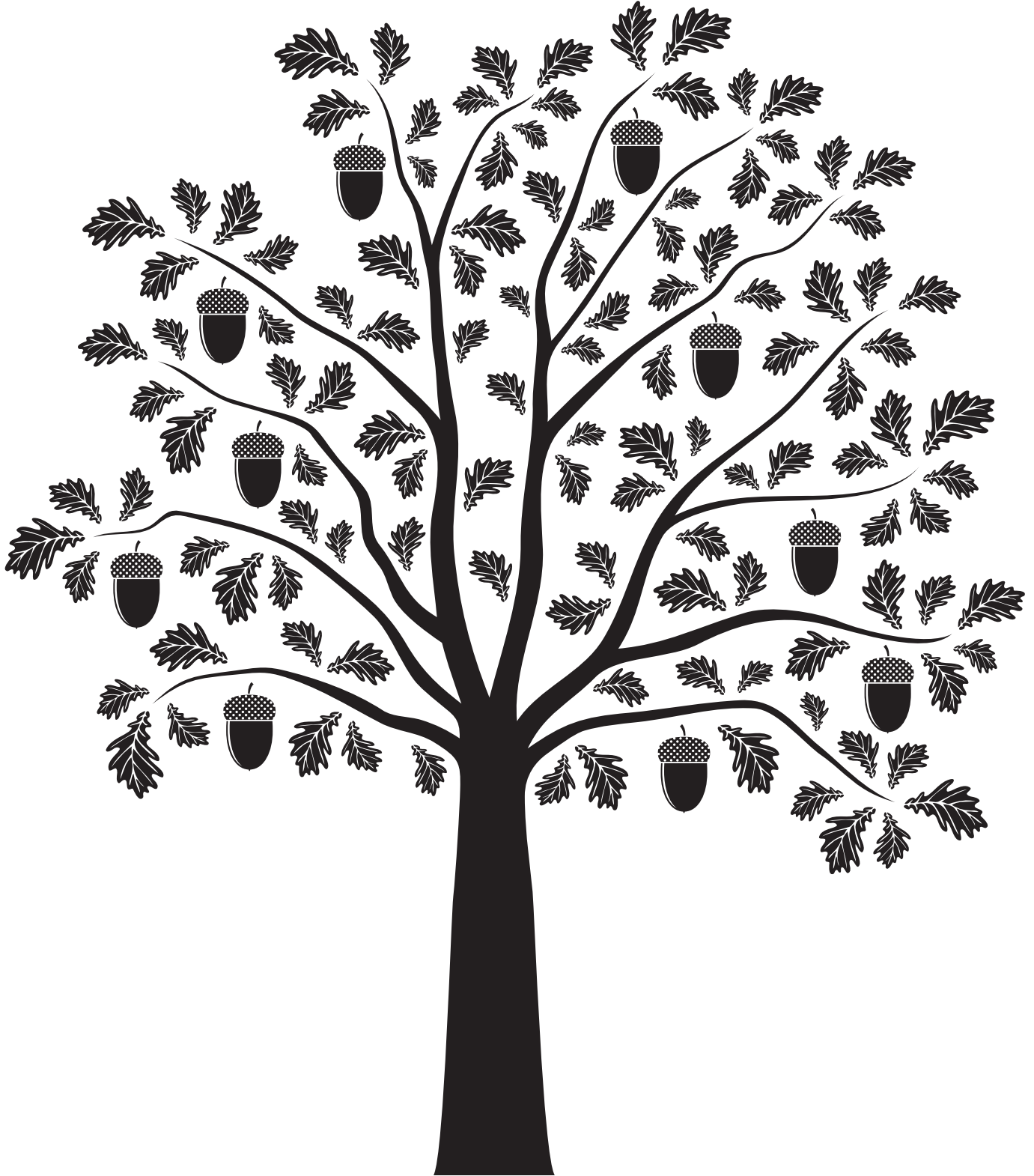
SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS

PER STUDENT:

- Computer or mobile device if available



Habitat Services Oak Tree

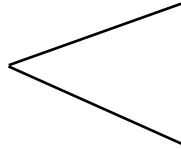


Habitat Services Oak Tree Habitat Organisms

Organisms

Fun Facts

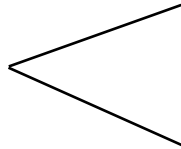
Blue jays



Blue jays frequently eat acorns from oak trees but will also eat fruit, nuts, seeds, insects, mice, frogs, small birds, eggs, beechnuts, and caterpillars.

Blue jays frequently perch in the branches or at the base of an oak tree to collect acorns. To eat an acorn or nut, a blue jay holds it with its feet while it cracks it open with its bill.

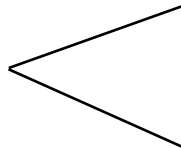
Squirrels



Squirrels rely on acorns and nuts for food. In the fall, squirrels collect acorns and nuts in order to help them survive through the winter months.

Squirrels can build their nests in hollow knots of oak trees, or by digging burrows among their roots.

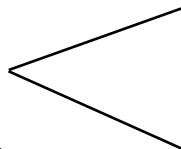
White-tailed deer



White-tailed deer live in forested areas where there are many trees such as oak. Acorns are a large part of the white-tailed deers' diet, in addition to twigs, plants, and fruit.

White-tailed deer can often be found foraging for acorns to eat on the ground underneath large oak trees.

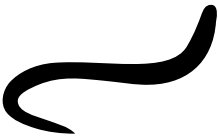
Humans



Large trees like oak trees benefit humans and animals because they clean the air, water, and soil of pollutants. They also provide wood for building or burning for warmth or cooking.

Humans can enjoy resting in the shade underneath an oak tree on a hot day.

Worms



Worms make their home in moist soil such as that underneath large oak trees. They decompose dead leaves that fall from these trees and resupply nutrients into the soil so that the tree can grow and stay healthy.

Plants



Some plants require shade in order to live. These plants can find a happy home underneath a shade of a large tree such as an oak.