

Diversity in Habitats Lessons

Web links

[Army of Sea Urchins](#)

This BBC video shows the effects of sea urchins on kelp forests.
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D3W4OCnHyCs>)

[Sea Otter Bangs Urchin with Rock](#)

This short video shows a sea otter diving to the sea floor, grabbing a sea urchin, and then using a rock to open and eat it.
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ynwlAVIkqmU>)

[Sea Otter Eats a Sea Urchin](#)

This short video shows a sea otter consuming a sea urchin on the ocean's surface.
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1gpf4whfbT4>)

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Books

A Friend for All Seasons

By Julia Hubery and Mei Matsuoka. (2007, Atheneum Books for Young Readers)

In this fictional story, Robbie the Raccoon loves his home, the oak tree. He gets concerned when it starts losing leaves, but his mom tells him this is what happens during the fall. They use the fallen leaves to create blankets for their winter nap. Read this book to discover what happens when they wake up!

Around One Log: Chipmunks, Spiders, and Creepy Insiders

By Anthony D. Fredericks; illustrated by Lisa Falkenstern. (2012, Dawn Publications)

This is the story of the animals that make use of a tree that has fallen to the forest floor. Critters prowl around the rotting log day in and day out. Vivid illustrations bring all the animals to life.

Desert Baths

By Darcy Pattison; illustrated by Kathleen Rietz. (2012, Sylvan Dell Publishing)

This is the story of how desert animals take baths in many different ways. The hummingbird is small enough to bathe in the early morning dew. The roadrunner takes a dust bath, while the tortoise waits for rain. Read the book to find out how other desert animals such as the mule deer, the diamondback rattlesnake, the quail, and the gecko bathe.

Life Cycle of an Oak Tree (Heinemann First Library)

By Angela Royston. (2009, Heinemann Library)

This book begins with a discussion of the acorn and goes on to tell the story of the life cycle of the oak tree. The book is filled with full-color photographs and descriptions of different stages in the life cycle of an oak tree.

Nature's Patchwork Quilt: Understanding Habitats

By Mary Miché; illustrated by Consie Powell. (2012, Dawn Publications)

The author explains how nature is like a patchwork quilt of many different habitats, and how the plants and animals in those habitats depend on each other. Filled with beautiful color illustrations.

Oliver's Tree

By Kit Chase. (2014, Penguin Group)

In this simply written book, three animal friends, an elephant, a bird, and a rabbit look for the perfect tree in which to play. They search high and low, then finally make a tree house that works for all of them!

Owls: Birds of the Night (Penguin Young Readers)

By Emily Sollinger; illustrated by Chris Rallis. (2014, Penguin Group)

The readability is grade 3, but the book contains interesting information about a number of types of owls. It is beautifully illustrated and also details the life cycle of the owl.

The Busy Tree

By Jennifer Ward; illustrated by Lisa Falkenstern. (2009, Marshall Cavendish Children)

Simple rhyming text and wonderful illustrations describe the many ways that a variety of animals such as chipmunks, ants, spiders, woodpeckers, owls, squirrels, moths, and humans use a single tree.

The Honey Bee's Hive: A Thriving City (Spectacular Animal Towns)

By Joyce Markovics. (2009, Bearport Publishing)

The author begins by discussing how a beekeeper released 40 billion bees to pollinate an almond orchard! After that, the book discusses a variety of information related to bees including how they gather food, how they pollinate flowers, why they "dance," the ways they work inside the hive, and how they care for the queen bee.

The Sea Otters of California (Animals of the World)

By Jane Duden; Photographs by Bob Cranston. (1998, Hilltop Books)

The reading level is above grade two, but this is still a good book to keep in the Science Center. It contains wonderful pictures of otters in their habitat.