



# SeaWorld/Busch Gardens Wetlands

## 4-8 Classroom Activities

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## Nature's Neighbors

### OBJECTIVE

The student will understand that all people are responsible for taking care of wildlife and wildlife habitats.

### ACTION

1. Students choose a location at school and obtain permission to improve it for wildlife.
2. Students decide which species of birds and animals they wish to attract. This will determine which shrubs and berry bushes they wish to plant.
3. To build a brush pile, place branches in a pile about 61 cm (2 ft.) high. add large leaves to the pile for protection wind and rain. Hold the pile together by placing large sticks on the top of the pile.
4. Students should carefully select bird feeders and nest boxes that are appropriate for local species. Contact a local environmental organization for help in determining what will work best for you.
5. After completing your new wildlife area, arrange for the whole school to become involved in watching and recording which animals are attracted to this new neighborhood.

### DEEPER DEPTHS

Students determine which habitat improvements were most effective and implement them in a local wetland. What other ways can we help preserve wetlands?

## BACKGROUND

Everyone can become involved in practical projects to improve our neighborhoods for ourselves as well as for animals of all kinds. Students can be involved with habitat improvement of their local neighborhoods. Brush piles, wildlife plantings, bird feeders, and nesting boxes are just a few ways students can be directly involved. Brush piles improve cover for small animals such as chipmunks, rabbits, and insects. Wildlife plantings provide cover and food.

## MATERIALS

### For class:

- shovels
- young plants
- branches and leaves
- bird feeders
- seed
- birdhouses



Waterfowl, like these mallard ducks, depend on waterways and marshlands for rest areas and places to raise chicks.