



Environmental Changes Teacher Pacing Guide

This unit was developed with southern and rural Nevada and the Next Generation Science Standards in mind.

This unit was designed for third grade and focuses on the NGSS standards **3-LS4-3**: Construct an argument with evidence that in a particular habitat some organisms can survive well, some survive less well, and some cannot survive at all & **3-LS4-4**: Make a claim about the merit of a solution to a problem caused when the environment changes and the types of plants and animals that live there may change. However, it can be used for other grade levels and areas as well.

These activities are listed in their recommended order. This order will help to deepen student understanding by building on concepts from activity to activity. However, they were also designed to provide students with enough information that they will make sense on their own.

Lesson Titles	Standard(s)	Timing	Format	Activity Description	Notes
Do I Belong Here?	3-LS4-3 : Construct an argument with evidence that in a particular habitat some organisms can survive well, some survive less well, and some cannot survive at all.	25 min.	Fillable PDF	Students will use this written worksheet as a guide through matching an animal to its ideal habitat. They must figure out what parts of the habitat fit the animals needs and what is missing to determine the ideal habitat.	
Resilience Dice Game	3-LS4-3 : Construct an argument with evidence that in a particular habitat some organisms can survive well, some survive less well, and some cannot survive at all.	30-40 min.	Fillable PDF game	Students use the written worksheet as a guide to play a dice/game of odds. Students will learn how changes in an animal's habitat can affect the animal's survival.	
Select one of the three activities below					
Mormon Cricket Management Plan	3-LS4-4 : Make a claim about the merit of a solution to a problem caused when the environment changes and the types of plants and animals that live there may change.	15-20 min.	Fillable PDF	Students learn about Mormon Crickets and develop a plan to keep the crickets from destroying their plants.	Rural NV focused
Mule Deer Restoration Plan	3-LS4-4 : Make a claim about the merit of a solution to a problem caused when the environment changes and the types of plants	15-20 min.	Fillable PDF	Students learn about the mule deer and develop a plan to keep the mule deer safe.	Rural NV focused

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Desert Tortoise Conservation Plan	3-LS4-4: Make a claim about the merit of a solution to a problem caused when the environment changes and the types of plants and animals that live there may change.	15-20 min.	Fillable PDF	Students learn about the four basic parts of a habitat (food, water, shelter and space). They discuss what a desert tortoise would need in their habitat. Then they develop a plan to keep the desert tortoise safe from the damage humans can cause in their environments (plant native plants, post signs, build fence holes).	Southern NV focused
Select one of the two activities below					
Wildfire Preventers	3-LS4-4: Make a claim about the merit of a solution to a problem caused when the environment changes and the types of plants and animals that live there may change.	15-20 min.	Fillable PDF	Students learn about wildfires and must choose the best solution to prevent or mitigate damages done due to wildfires.	Rural NV focused
Desert Dan – Tortoise Adventures	3-LS4-3: Construct an argument with evidence that in a particular habitat some organisms can survive well, some survive less well, and some cannot survive at all.	25 min.	Fillable PDF	Students learn about the adaptations (shell, claws, and bladder) that a desert tortoise has to help it survive in the desert.	Southern NV focused
Reflection	3-LS4-3: Construct an argument with evidence that in a particular habitat some organisms can survive well, some survive less well, and some cannot survive at all. 3-LS4-4: Make a claim about the merit of a solution to a problem caused when the environment changes and the types of plants and animals that live there may change.	10-20 min.	Fillable PDF	Reflection questions: Describe an environmental change and explain how one of the animals in that habitat could react. How could humans help animals better adapt to this change?	