

Student Journal

Explore and Write K-2nd grade



A habitat is the natural place where plants and animals live, with all the resources they need to grow and stay healthy.

This Journal Belongs to:

INK FRIENDLY PRINT!  **COLOR ME IN!**

National Association of Conservation Districts Stewardship Week 2025

Vowelaree's Nest

Conservation \kən-sər-'vā-shən \

Repeat that three times!

(noun) Taking care of our natural world, like plants, animals, and water, to keep it clean and healthy so everyone can enjoy it.

Conservation

Habitat \ 'hə-bə-'tāt \

(noun) The place or environment where a plant or animal naturally or normally lives and grows.

Habitats

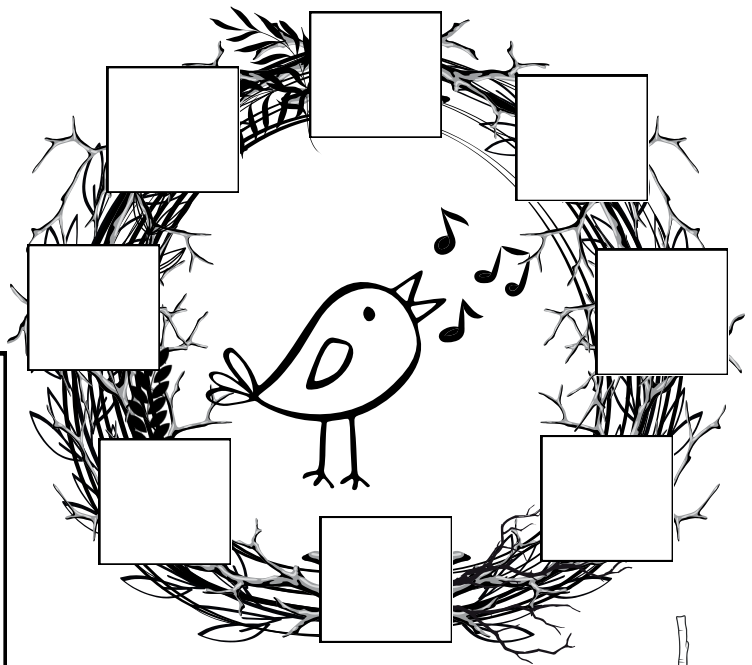
Vowelaree the Bird Needs Our Help!

Vowelaree the bird is building a cozy nest, but it needs special materials. She needs VOWELS!

1. Circle the vowels in the words conservation and habitat.
2. Draw them into the squares on the circular nest.

Your vowels will help Vowelaree build a strong and safe home!

CONSERVATION HABITAT



Vowelaree the bird uses items she can carry in her beak, like twigs and leaves, to build her nest. Can you think of **FOUR** other items she might find in nature?

Draw those items in the boxes to help Vowelaree make her nest cozy and strong!



We encourage artistic expression! Everyone is an artist in their own way. Your drawings are perfect just as they are, whether they're detailed or abstract. What matters most is your creativity and imagination. Have fun and be proud of your work!

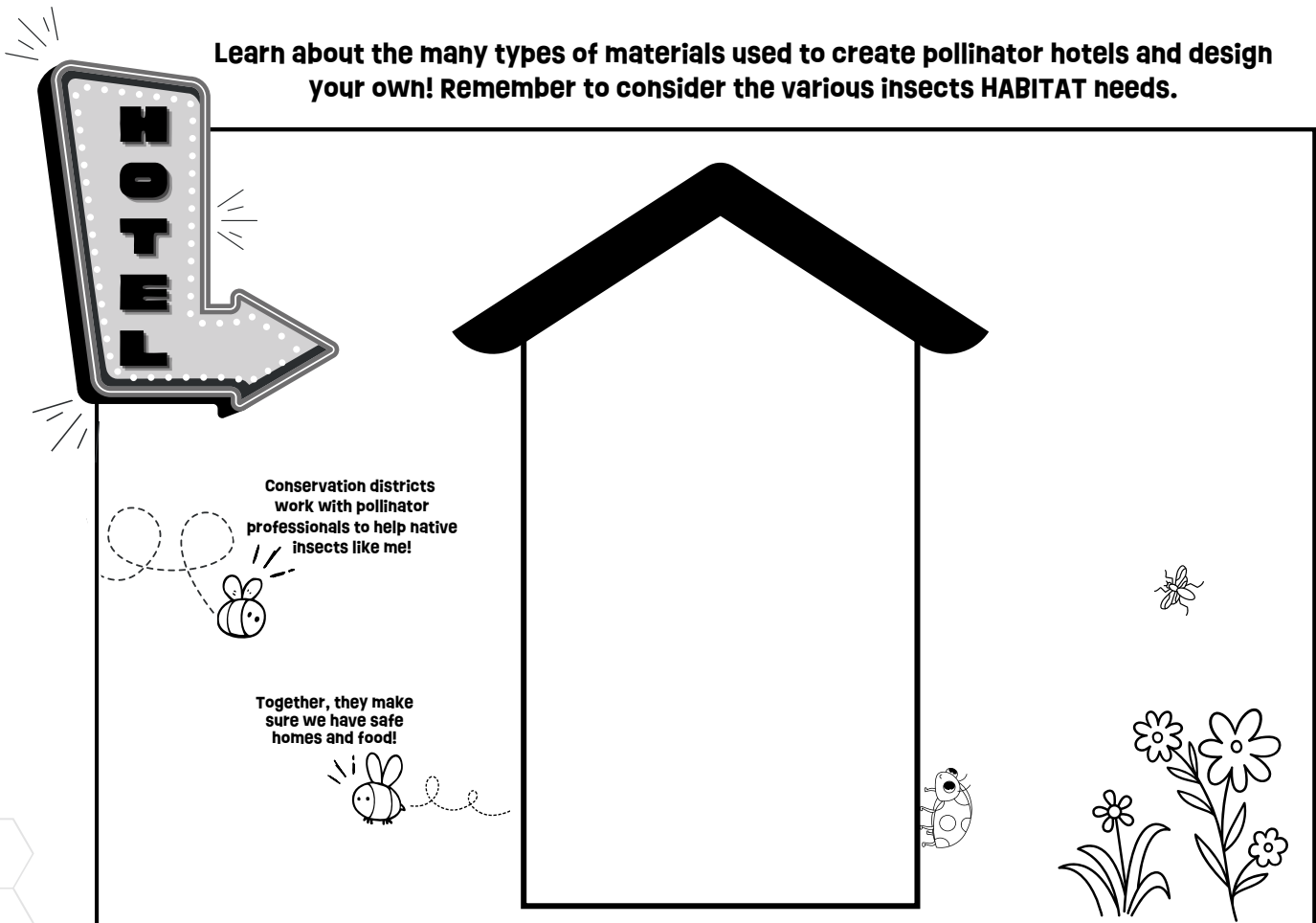
Native Bee Habitats

Give Native Pollinators Space, Stay Safe and be Respectful!

The U.S. is home to thousands of **native bee species**, including bumblebees, solitary bees, and leafcutter bees. Unlike honeybees, which were introduced from Europe for honey production, native bees have nesting specific needs like ground nests or hollow stems. Natural environments such as forests, wetlands, and grasslands provide these important habitats. Each state and **territory** have native bee species adapted to their local conditions.

Conservation districts help **preserve natural nesting** habitats and, when needed, provide education about human-made ones, like “**Pollinator Hotels.**” While **conservationists** prefer natural habitats, sometimes we need to lend a hand. These hand-crafted structures don't have room service or an Olympic-sized pool, but they replicate a bee's natural nesting cavity, offering a safe place for laying eggs and developing **larvae**.

Learn about the many types of materials used to create pollinator hotels and design your own! Remember to consider the various insects HABITAT needs.



The **USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service, Pollinator Partnership** and the **Xerces Society** are all great resources to use for your research. You can also use other educational websites provided by your instructor.

Check the HABITAT needs that you provided in your design

- Shelter:** Safe spots for animals to live, sleep, and hide.
- Food:** Resources like plants, insects, or other animals to eat.
- Water:** Needed for drinking and bathing.
- Space:** Room for movement, mating, and raising young.
- Nesting Sites:** Safe places to build homes and lay eggs.
- Temperature Regulation:** Conditions to stay warm or cool.



Habitat Invaders

We can help prevent the spread of invasive and non-native plants and animals!

Invasive plants and animals often end up in new areas through transportation, such as when people **travel**, or through **boating** and **shipping**. They can also be **dispersed** by the wind or through natural animal movement. Once **displaced**, invasive species can compete with **native** plants and animals for food, space, and resources, disrupting the **balance** of the ecosystem.

Why Should We Care? Invasive species can make it harder for native plants and animals to thrive. By preventing their spread through education and awareness, we help protect our natural habitats and ensure all animals and plants have a good home. **How can we help?** Signage in specific areas helps remind everyone to follow prevention tips and protect our ecosystems.

Research this topic: What is the difference in an invasive species and non-native species?

“INVASIVE SPECIES ALERT!”

For this activity, you’ll create signs to remind travelers to prevent the spread of invasive species. Here are some examples:

Hikers! Clean your shoes and gear before moving to new places.
Boaters! Wash your boats and equipment.
Public Notice! Do not release exotic pets into nature.
Warning! Avoid planting unfamiliar plants or seed.

Make your signs colorful and easy to read so everyone knows how to help protect our habitats. Oftentimes signage is bilingual!

CONSERVATION CAREER LINK: Communications and graphic arts professionals in conservation-based careers enjoy writing and designing engaging materials to raise awareness about issues like invasive species. Their work makes it easier to understand and act on important conservation topics.

Can you recognize, or speak, the languages in these signs?

- English: "DANGER! Do not disturb wildlife."
- French: "DANGER! Ne dérangez pas la faune."
- English: "Stay on Trails. Protected Area."
- Spanish: "Manténgase en los senderos. Área protegida."