

Species in the Suburbs: A colouring guide to habitat connectivity in the Australian Capital Territory
Teacher Resource and Activity Booklet



Molonglo Conservation Group



United for Nature

Supported by



ACT
Government

This Teacher Resource and Activity Booklet accompanies *Species in the Suburbs: A colouring guide to habitat connectivity in the Australian Capital Territory* published by Molonglo Conservation Group 2023.

This resource was developed as part of the ACT Government's Connecting Nature Connecting People Initiative.

We acknowledge the Ngunawal people as traditional custodians of the ACT and recognise any other people or families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region. We acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region.

Developed by Molonglo Conservation Group.

**Species in the Suburbs: A colouring guide to habitat connectivity in the Australian Capital Territory
Teacher Resource and Activity Booklet**

Contents

Background and Activity Booklet Overview.....	3
Curriculum Alignment Stages F-6.....	4
Curriculum Alignment Stages F-6.....	5
Activity 1: Habitat Threats- Woodlands.....	6
Activity 2: Habitat Threats- Grasslands.....	7
Activity 3: Habitat Threats- Riparian Corridors.....	8
Activity 4: Habitat Connectivity Challenge.....	9
Activity 5: Backyard Buddy Expression of Interest.....	10
Activity 6: Canberra Nature Map Data Sheet Template.....	11
Activity 7: Schoolyard Log.....	12
Activity 8: Habitat Observations.....	13
Activity 9: Habitat Connections.....	14
Activity 10: Find-A-Word.....	15
Critical Thinking Questions.....	16
Additional Resources.....	17

Background and Activity Booklet Overview

Brief overview of the Connecting Nature, Connecting People initiative and the purpose and aims of this resource.

Canberra's network of nature reserves, forests and urban green spaces provide important areas of habitat for biodiversity conservation, as well as providing connection with nature and the Ngunawal culture.

As our city grows, the combined influences of habitat loss, fragmentation and climate change pose a serious threat to native plant and animal conservation, Ngunawal cultural practices and the wellbeing of our community. To ensure Canberra's nature, people and culture can flourish, our urban landscapes need to host biodiverse and resilient green spaces.

Connecting Nature, Connecting People is an ACT Government initiative designed to address these complex issues. Through a series of cross-Government projects, Connecting Nature, Connecting People will support the movement of species to the broader landscape (known as 'ecological connectivity'), enrich and build the resilience of urban biodiversity, and enhance our community's connection to nature.

Connecting Nature, Connecting People is being delivered in partnership with a variety of community groups. In particular, it is working closely with the Ngunawal Community to embrace opportunities to celebrate and preserve Ngunawal culture and values across projects, policies and interpretive material.

This Teacher Resource and Activity Booklet expands on themes introduced in the *Species in our Suburbs* book and provides additional ways in which to critically analyse habitat connectivity pertaining to the Australian Curriculum. This material can be used as a guide or reference point and should not be considered to the extent of the potential syllabus links for these resources.

Curriculum Alignment F-6

This syllabus alignment pertains to the Australian Curriculum V9.0. These learning outcomes apply to the accompanying Species in the Suburbs resource as well as the activities. This is a guide only and does not comprehensively identify student outcomes, questions of inquiry, content focus or skills focus.

Foundations		
Science		Suggested Activities
Observe external features of plants and animals and describe they ways they can be grouped based on these features (AC9SFU01)	Explore the ways people make and use observations and questions to learn about the natural world (AC9SFH01)	Activity 7 Activity 8
Humanities and Social Sciences		Activity 6 Activity 7 Activity 8
The features of familiar places they belong to, why some places are special and how places can be looked after (AC9HSFK03)	Share narratives and observations, using sources and terms about the past and places (AC9HSFS05)	
Year 1		
Science		Suggested Activities
Identify the basic needs of plants and animals including air, water, food or shelter and describe how the places they live meet those needs (AC9S1U01)	Describe daily and seasonal changes in the environment and explore how these changes affect everyday life (AC9S1U02)	Activity 4 Activity 5 Activity 6
Humanities and Social Sciences		Activity 1 Activity 2 Activity 3 Activity 4
The natural, managed and constructed features of local places and their location (AC9HS1K03)	How places change and how they can be cared for by different groups including First Nations Australians (AC9HS1K04)	
Year 2		
Humanities and Social Sciences		Suggested Activities
A local individual, group, place or building and the reasons and the reasons for their importance including social, cultural or spiritual significance (AC9HS2K01)	Develop questions about objects, people, places and events in the past and present (AC9HS2S01)	Activity 5

Year 3		
Science		Suggested Activities
Compare characteristics of living and non-living things and examine the differences between the life cycles of plants and animals (AC9S3U01)	Consider how people use scientific explanation to meet a need or solve a problem (AC9S3H02)	Activity 1 Activity 2
Humanities and Social Sciences		Activity 6 Activity 8
The similarities and differences between places in Australia and neighbouring countries in terms of their natural, managed and constructed features (AC9HS3K05)	Why people participate in communities and how students can actively participate and contribute to communities (AC9HS3K07)	
Year 4		
Science		Suggested Activities
Explain the roles and interactions of consumers, producers and decomposers within a habitat and how food chains represent feeding relationships (AC9S4K01)	Identify sources of water and describe key processes in the water cycle, including movement of water (AC9S4U02)	Activity 3 Activity 9
Humanities and Social Sciences		Activity 1 Activity 2 Activity 3 Activity 4
The importance of environments, including natural vegetation and water sources, to people and other animals in Australia and on another continent (AC9HS4K05)	Sustainable use and management of renewable and non-renewable resources, including the custodial responsibility First Nations Australians have for Country/Place (AC9HS4K06)	
Year 5		
Science		Suggested Activities
Examine how particular structural features and behaviours of living things enable their survival in specific habitats (AC9S5K01)	Describe how weathering, erosion, transportation and deposition cause slow or rapid change to Earth's surface (AC9S5K02)	Activity 6 Activity 8
Humanities and Social Sciences		Activity 1 Activity 2 Activity 3 Activity 4
The impact of the development of British colonies in Australia on the lives of First Nations Australians, the colonists and convicts and on the natural environment (AC9HS5K02)	The management of Australian environments, including managing severe weather events such as bushfires, floods, droughts or cyclones, and their consequences (AC9HS5K05)	
Year 6		
Science		Suggested Activities
Investigate the physical conditions of a habitat and analyse how the growth and survival of living things is affected by changing physical conditions (AC9S6U01)		Activity 6 Activity 8

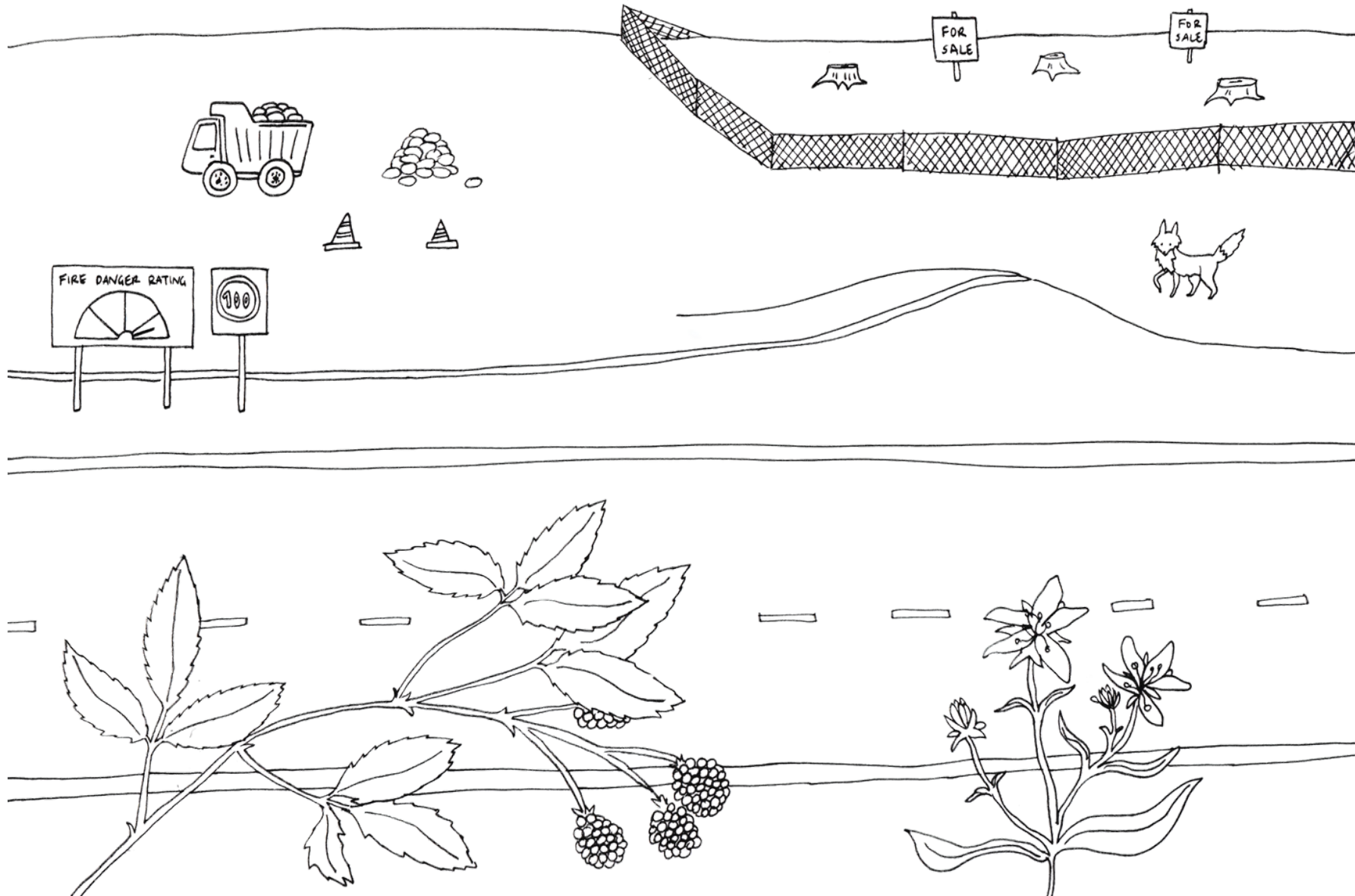
Activity 1: Habitat Threats- Woodlands

Can you identify the threats to this Woodland? Explain why different threats can restrict the movement of species. Think about what types of plants or animals might be impacted by some of these threats and suggest ways to reduce or repair the impact.



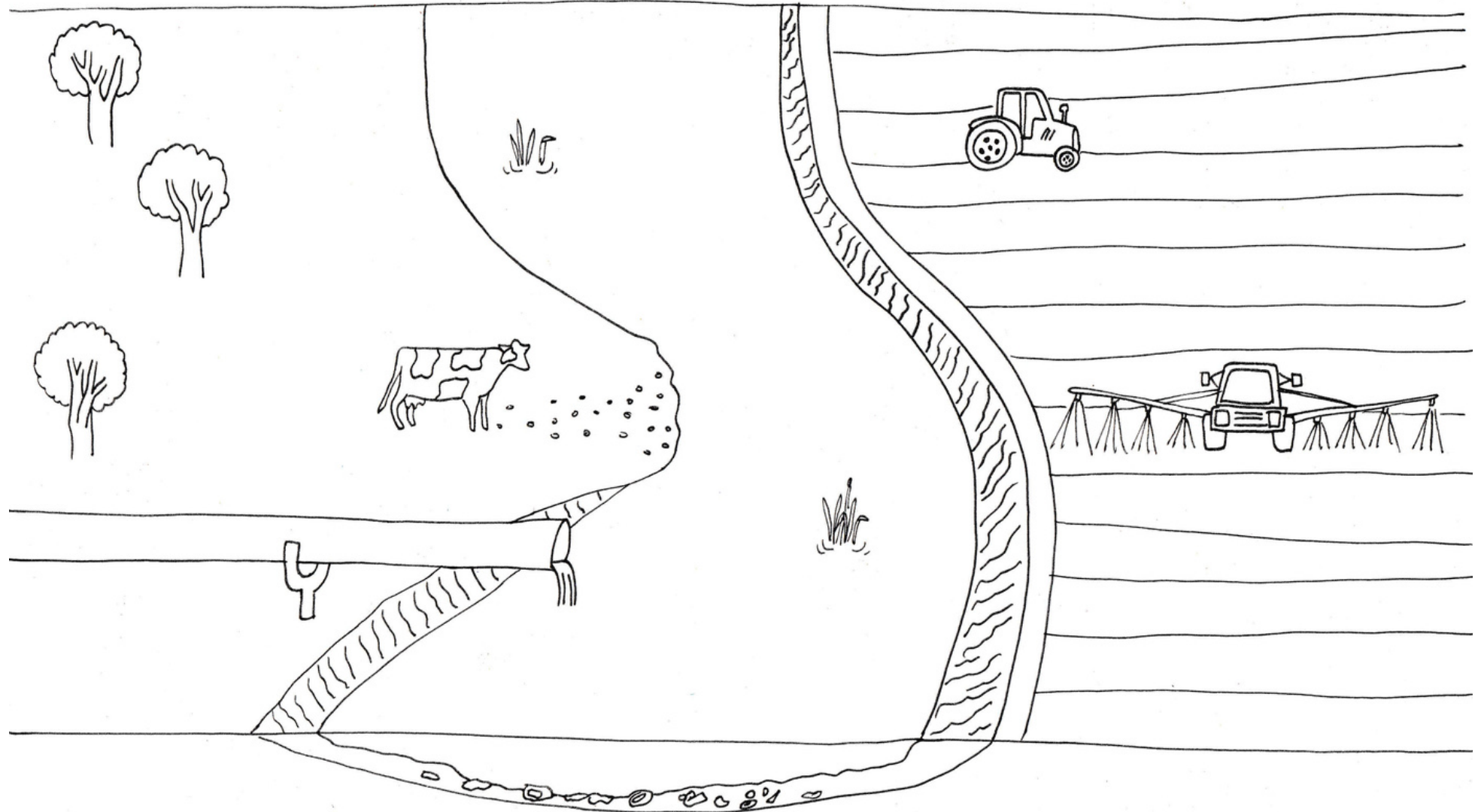
Activity 2: Habitat Threats- Grasslands

Can you identify the threats to this Grassland? Explain why different threats can restrict the movement of species. Think about what types of plants or animals might be impacted by some of these threats and suggest ways to reduce or repair the impact.



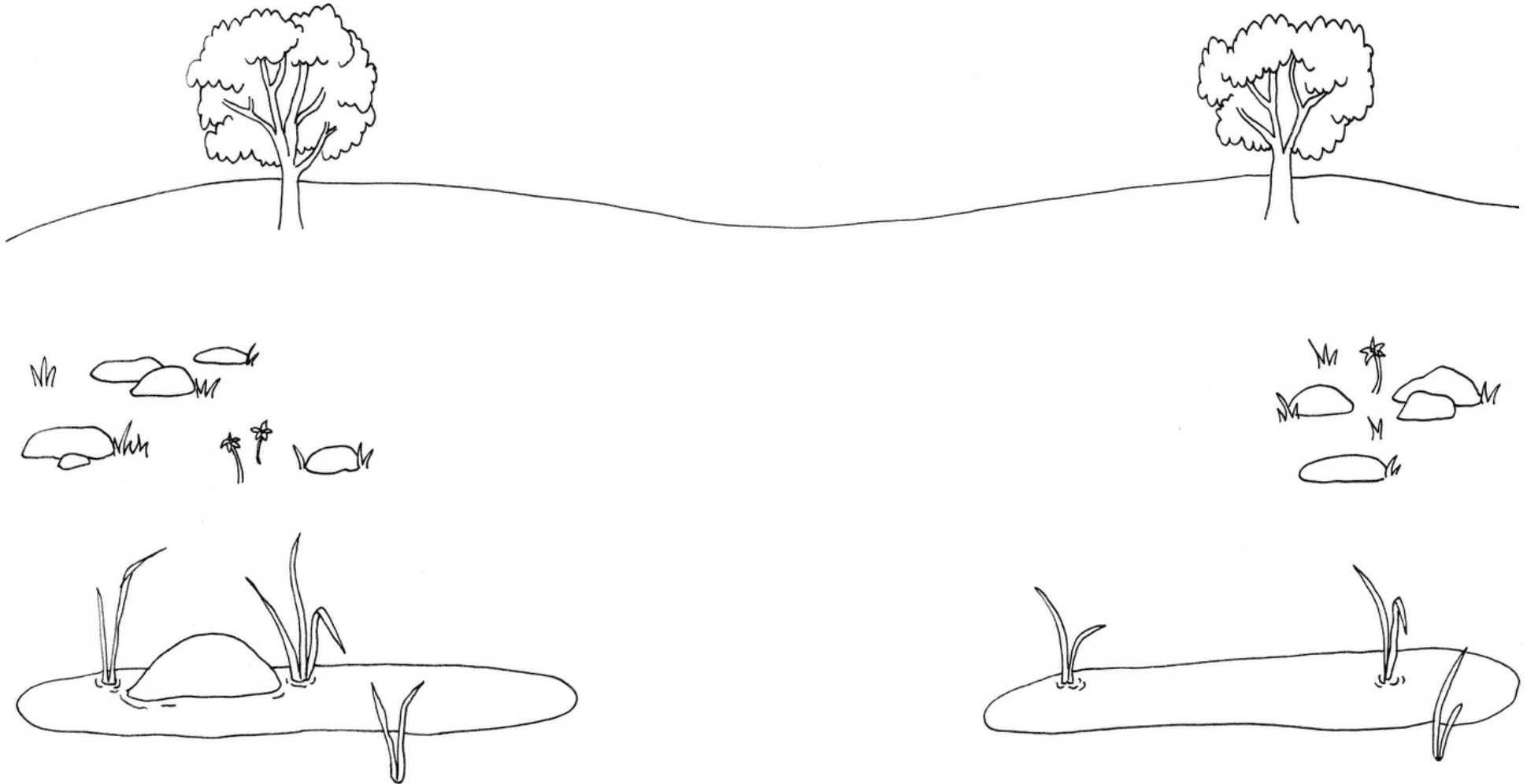
Activity 3: Habitat Threats- Riparian Corridors

Can you identify the threats to this Riparian Corridor? Explain why different threats can restrict the movement of species. Think about what types of plants or animals might be impacted by some of these threats and suggest ways to reduce or repair the impact.



Activity 4: Habitat Connectivity Challenge

When habitat becomes fragmented, species can get stuck in one area. We can build habitat corridors or networks by connecting two or more areas that the species can travel through. Think about the habitat corridors or networks for different species in the picture below and draw in ways we could improve those habitat connections. There are clues about how to do this in the book.



Activity 5: Backyard Buddy Expression of Interest

Are you interested in connecting habitat for different species in your backyard? Use this form to explain who you are, why biodiversity is important to you and how you would connect or enhance habitat for different species in your backyard. These questions will help explain why you would be a good backyard buddy.

Who are you?	
What type of backyard do you have?	
What types of ecosystems or habitats are in your backyard?	
What types of animals do you see in your backyard?	
What ways could you enhance or connect habitat in your backyard?	
Why is habitat connectivity in your backyard important?	
Why would you be a good backyard buddy?	

Activity 6- Canberra Nature Map Data Sheet Template

Find a species of plant or animal and fill in the fields below about what you observe- this is called a 'sighting.' Canberra Nature Map collects these sightings and expert moderators can identify them. It's important to make these types of observations as it helps build a bigger picture of what types of things live in the area, how they interact and what types of habitats they prefer.

Date	
Time	
Location	
Habitat Conditions (Where was it growing?)	
Abundance (How many were there?)	
Species Type (Plant, bird, mammal, insect etc)	
Description (What did it look like?)	

Draw the sighting in this box


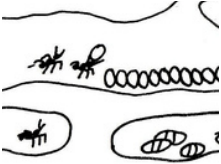

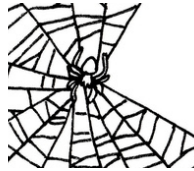







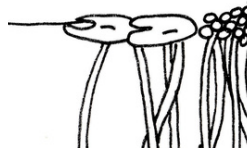
Activity 7: Schoolyard Log

Walk around your schoolyard and observe animals that live there. Fill in the table with your observations of how many different species you can find by marking tallies in the corresponding boxes. Species Types refer to different kinds of animal from the same group, for example you might see 10 total birds, but only 3 different Species Types like Magpies, Kookaburras and Rosellas.

Birds	
Total Birds Observed	Species Types
Mammals	
Total Mammals Observed	Species Types
Insects	
Total Insects Observed	Species Types

Activity 8: Habitat Observations

Try to find as many items as you can in your backyard, school ground or nearest greenspace using this nature scavenger hunt. When you find an item, think about what habitat it needs, what habitat it might provide or how we can enhance the habitat.

 <p>A pollinator</p>	 <p>An ant nest</p>	 <p>Leaf litter</p>	 <p>A spider web</p>
 <p>An egg or eggsack</p>	 <p>Flowers</p>	 <p>Fungi</p>	 <p>A bird nest</p>
 <p>Grass</p>	 <p>Rocks</p>	 <p>A tree hollow</p>	 <p>A water source</p>

Activity 9: Habitat Connections

Draw a line to connect the animals with their habitat. Many species like to live across different ecological communities so think about where you've seen these animals before, and consider if you have seen them in urban spaces too.

Frogs
Echidnas
Turtles
Spiders
Butterflies
Possums
Crayfish
Rakali
Birds
Lizards
Wombats

Woodlands
Grasslands
Riparian Corridors

Snakes
Ants
Platypus
Bees
Bats
Fish
Mice
Kangaroos
Moths
Quolls
Bettongs

Activity 10: Find-A-Word

Find the listed words in the letter grid below. 20 words are hidden, all of these words appear in the Species in the Suburbs resource.

Animal
Biodiversity
Community
Connectivity
Ecosystem
Grassland
Greenspace
Habitat
Landscape
Nature
Neighbourhood
People
Pollinator
Regeneration
Riparian
Species
Suburb
Survey
Wildlife
Woodland



Critical Thinking Questions

Using the Species in our Suburbs resource, answer the following literal, inferential and evaluative questions pertaining to habitat conservation and connectivity.

Literal	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Have you ever seen wild animals in your suburb?2. What type of things do you notice about wildlife in your area?3. Have you ever seen pet cats or dogs interact with wildlife?4. Have you ever noticed wildlife near roads?5. How many ecological communities are listed in the book?6. Have you ever been to a Woodland, Grassland or Riparian Corridor environment?7. Have you ever planted a plant or tree?
Inferential	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Why do we see wildlife in our suburbs?2. Why do animals and plants need more habitat?3. Why do wild animals need our help to move safely across our suburbs?4. Why is it best to keep pet cats and dogs contained inside properties?5. Why do animals often get hit by vehicles on roads?6. Why do some species only live in certain environments?7. Why would it be important to take photos of plants and animals?
Evaluative	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. What do you think habitat connectivity means?2. How would you feel if you saw an injured animal on the road or attacked by a cat?3. What types of things do you think a landcarer does?4. Do you think people and animals can share an environment?5. How would you feel if we didn't have any native plants or wildlife in our suburbs?6. What are ways we negatively impact wildlife habitat?7. What are ways we positively enhance wildlife habitat?

Additional Resources

Below is a list of organisations that support volunteers in the community to undertake environmental restoration and citizen science. Find additional resources pertaining to different conservation efforts by following these links.

ACT Government

Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development- www.environment.act.gov.au

Catchment Groups

Ginninderra Catchment Group- www.ginninderralandcare.org.au

Molonglo Conservation Group- www.molonglo.org.au

Southern ACT Catchment Group- www.sactcg.org.au

Citizen Science

Canberra Nature Map- www.canberra.naturemapr.org

Frogwatch- www.ginninderralandcare.org.au/frogwatch

Waterwatch- www.act.waterwatch.org.au

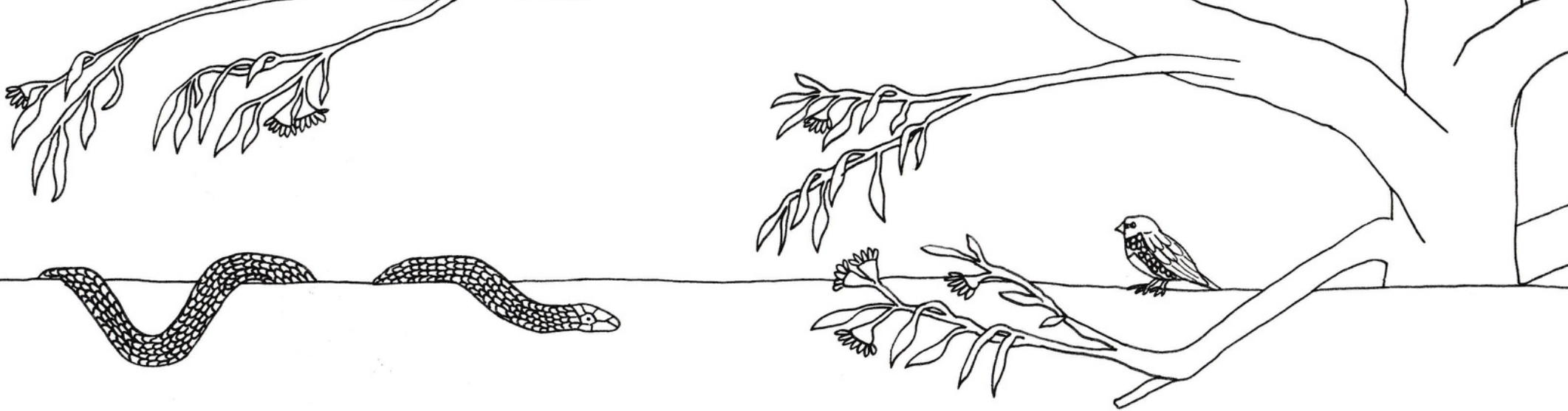
Peak Body

Landcare ACT- www.landcareact.org.au



Email for more information





This Teacher Resource and Activity Booklet accompanies *Species in the Suburbs: A colouring guide to habitat connectivity in the Australian Capital Territory* published by Molonglo Conservation Group 2023.

This resource was developed as part of the ACT Government's Connecting Nature, Connecting People Initiative.

