

Wildlife Habitat Riddle Cards

Copy and cut into individual cards.

A. I prefer to make my home in shallow ponds, wet meadows, swamps, bogs, fens, marshes, or slow-moving streams. I particularly like clear, shallow water with a mud bottom, with aquatic and emergent vegetation. I eat worms, mollusks, small crayfish, spiders, adult and larval insects, tadpoles, algae, plant leaves, water lily seeds. *Additional clues: My shell helps to protect me from predators. I get my name from the round yellow spots scattered over my shell.*

B. I am almost always found in large jack pine (6-20 ft) forests in areas with sandy soil. I prefer to build my nest on the ground close to a young jack pine tree. I eat insects, tree sap (pine sap), and berries (especially blueberries). *Additional clues: I am a small bird and wag my tail often. There are very few of my kind left. I am listed as endangered.*

C. I prefer to inhabit forested areas containing pine or hemlock. I usually make my den in caves, decaying logs, or hollow trees. I like to eat conifer needles; bark of white pine, hemlock, or sugar maple; and the leaves of basswood trees. *Additional clues: I am a mammal. Some people think I am prickly.*

D. I live in and around clean medium-deep water in streams, ponds, or lakes. I eat minnows, trout, perch, sunfish, crayfish, and amphibians. *Additional clues: I am a mammal. My thick fur is quite waterproof. I am a fast swimmer and have webbed feet.*

E. I inhabit ponds, lakes, swamps, and slow-moving streams. When I am young, I swim in the water, feeding on algae and decaying materials. As an adult, I eat insects such as beetles, flies, butterflies, caterpillars, and grasshoppers. I also like to eat spiders, millipedes, slugs, snails, and crayfish. *Additional clues: I am an amphibian, named for my color. My main strategy for hunting is to wait quietly until something comes close enough to catch.*

F. I inhabit beaches that are mostly covered with sand, gravel, or pebbles. I build my nest on the ground in the sand or gravel. I feed on aquatic invertebrates (including aquatic worms, crustaceans, mollusks, and the eggs of aquatic invertebrates). I prefer areas where people are not found. *Additional clues: I am a type of bird. I am an endangered species.*

G. I prefer to build my nest in older deciduous trees. I use my sturdy beak to excavate a cavity in a dead or old tree. I eat mostly insects, which I find on trees. Sometimes, I also eat fruit, acorns, nuts, or tree sap. *Additional clues: I am quite large, about the size of a crow (18 inches). I am mostly black and have a bright red crest.*

<p>H. I spend my time in and out of the water. I prefer to live near slow-moving streams, lakes, ponds, and especially marshes. I feed on the roots of aquatic plants (cattails, water lily, and arrowhead). I also eat crayfish, mussels, small fish, turtles, and frogs. <i>Additional clues: I am a type of very large rodent. I have a round, scaly tail. I am smaller than a beaver.</i></p>	<p>I. I prefer to make my home in dense conifer or deciduous forests that have thick understories and are not often disturbed by people. I eat invertebrates (ants, beetles, and bees), fish, rabbit, mice, fruit, beechnuts, and acorns. <i>Additional clues: I am a rather large mammal. I spend my winters nestled away in my den.</i></p>
<p>J. I am a type of insect. In my nymph (immature) form, I am aquatic, inhabiting temporary and permanent pools, marshes, swamps, ponds, lakes, streams, and rivers. As an adult, I am terrestrial and may fly long distances in search of food. I am an excellent flier and a fierce predator, feeding on mosquitoes and other small insects. <i>Additional clues: My body is often brightly covered.</i></p>	<p>K. I make my home near water, often along the shores of the Great Lakes. I can also be found around lakes, rivers, fields, and even dumps. I am often seen flying with large numbers of others like me. I build my nest on the ground. I am a scavenger and will eat anything from garbage to berries, small adult birds, and eggs. <i>Additional clues: I have a mostly white body and a yellow beak.</i></p>
<p>L. I am a type of insect. In my nymph (immature) form, I am aquatic, and make my home at the bottom of streams or lakes, feeding on algae, aquatic plants, and tiny bits of organic material (detritus). As an adult, I live on land where I do not eat at all and live for only about 2 weeks. <i>Additional clues: Unfortunately, many other creatures like to eat me! I am an important food for many fish and other aquatic organisms. My name should remind you of one month of the year.</i></p>	<p>M. I am a type of bird that prefers lakes and ponds in places undisturbed by people. I prefer to build my nest among aquatic plants at the edge of shallow water. I am an excellent swimmer and catch my food by diving underwater. I mostly eat fish, but will also eat aquatic invertebrates, especially crustaceans. <i>Additional clues: In the summer, I have a black head and black bill. My call is recognized by many people.</i></p>
<p>N. I prefer to make my home along the edge of forests, in burned or recently cut forests or in open fields with scattered trees. I nest in cavities of trees (often created by woodpeckers) or in birdhouses especially designed for me. I eat mostly insects and fruit. I also feed on earthworms, snails, other invertebrates, and berries. <i>Additional clues: I am a small songbird and am named for my pretty color.</i></p>	<p>O. I inhabit forests, forest edges, heavy brush, and farmland. In summer I eat grasses, herbs, leaves, acorns, and mushrooms, as well as apples, corn, celery, and soybeans. In winter I eat buds and twigs of woody plants, especially those of maple, dogwood, aspen, willow, sumac, and white cedar trees. <i>Additional clues: I am a type of mammal. I have long legs to help me run fast. The males of my kind grow antlers every year.</i></p>

<p>P. As an adult, I prefer to live under logs, fallen bark, leaf litter, and rocks in deciduous, coniferous, or mixed forests. When I am young, I live in water. As an adult, I eat insects and their larvae, spiders, mites, pill bugs, centipedes, snails, slugs, and earthworms. <i>Additional clues: I am amphibian. I have a red stripe down my back.</i></p>	<p>Q. I live in clear streams with rocky bottoms, as well as rocky shores of lakes. I eat mostly algae and aquatic plants, but will also eat snails and aquatic insects. <i>Additional clues: I am a crustacean. I swim backwards to escape from predators.</i></p>
<p>R. I make my home in open areas such as grasslands, old fields, or pastures. I prefer to eat voles, mice, ground-nesting birds, grubs, and insects. <i>Additional clues: I am a mammal. I look somewhat like a dog with very short legs. I am a fierce predator and use my powerful claws to dig after prey.</i></p>	<p>S. I prefer to make my home in open fields, meadows, prairies, and marshes where milkweed plants can be found. As a larva, I feed on the leaves of the milkweed plant. As an adult, I sip on the nectar of flowers. <i>Additional clues: My wings are bright orange with black markings. I am a type of insect. Birds do not like the taste of me. Members of my species migrate to Mexico for the winter.</i></p>
<p>T. I prefer to inhabit mixed forests containing mature deciduous and coniferous trees. I eat mostly nuts, acorns, and conifer seeds. I also eat fruits, buds, fungi, sap, insects, and bird eggs. I am nocturnal. <i>Additional clues: I am a mammal. I can almost fly, even though I do not have wings.</i></p>	<p>U. I prefer to live around freshwater marshes, swamps, lakes, and rivers. I build my nest high in nearby deciduous trees. I eat mostly fish and amphibians. I also eat baby birds, small mammals, and invertebrates (insects and crayfish). <i>Additional clues: I am very tall (4 feet). I have very long legs and a grayish-blue body.</i></p>