

Let's Get Started!

Before you begin your lessons

So, you're going to introduce your students to keeping cats safe, and saving birds lives! Awesome! To help get you started, look at some helpful resources that can be found on our website: <http://catsandbirds.ca/>

For many students in the primary grades, various concepts and vocabulary explored throughout our programming may be the first time they are exposed to these words. To ensure that students have a solid understanding of the basic terms that are mentioned throughout our programming we suggest you go through these terms with your students prior to engaging in our activities. This can be as simple as putting these words on your word wall, or going through them with your students verbally.

Behavior

The actions or reactions of a person or animal in response to external or internal stimuli

Biodiversity

The variety of organisms at all levels of classification and the variety of ecosystems within a specific geographic region and globally.

Carnivore

An animal that normally eats other animals. A few plants are also carnivorous.

Consumer

Organisms that feed on other organisms. Organisms that feed on green plants or decaying matter are called primary consumers. Carnivores are called secondary consumers, while those that feed on other carnivores are called tertiary consumers.

Decomposer

An organism that breaks down the bodies or parts of dead plant or animal matter into smaller pieces (decay). Decomposers, such as mushrooms, bacteria, and earthworms, are very important in food webs.

Domestic

A tame animal living within a human household

Habitat

The place where an organism lives and that provides it with the food, water, shelter and space that it needs to survive.

Herbivore

An animal that eats plants.

Neuter

Lacking developed sexual organs, or having had them removed

Omnivore

An animal that eats both plants and other animals.

Photosynthesis

The process by which green plants use the energy from sunlight to convert carbon dioxide and water into nutrients, producing oxygen as a byproduct. Photosynthesis is very important, because it produces the oxygen and carbohydrates that animals (including people) need to live.

Producer

An organism that produces new organic material from inorganic material with the aid of sunlight.

Sterilize

Gender neutral term to refer to both spaying and neutering domestic cats

Spay

To remove surgically the ovaries of (an animal)

Species

A group of closely related organisms that are very similar to each other and are usually capable of interbreeding and producing fertile offspring

Stray

To wander away, as from the correct path or from a given area.

Sustainability

A process that can be maintained without interruption, weakening, or loss of valued qualities. Sustainability ensures that a population remains within the carrying capacity of its environment

Vulnerable

Susceptible to physical harm or damage

Source: The Ontario Curriculum grades 1-8 Science and Technology, 2007 Update