

Habitat Hunt



Objective: Learn about the habitats and life histories of some of the animals that live in Walla Walla County. Write a diary entry about the habitat you live in. Make comparisons between the habitats of different animals.

Background: All living things need food, water, shelter, and space to live. The places where living things, or organisms, can find these needs are called their habitats. A habitat is an organism's home. Even though their basic needs are the same, not all organisms can live in the same type of habitat. Could an elephant live with you in your home? The world supports many different organisms in many different habitats. The diversity of life is amazing!

Activity:

1. Read about some of the animals that live in Walla Walla County. Find out about their habitat needs.
2. Fill out a diary page about the habitat you live in.
3. On the last page, answer some questions about habitats.



A Day in the Life

Let's learn about some animals that live in Walla Walla County. As you read, underline each animal's food source. Draw a circle around the way it gets water. Draw a box around how it builds a nest. Put a squiggly line under the kind of space it prefers to live in.

Rufous Hummingbird

This tiny bird loves to drink sugary nectar from tube-shaped flowers to keep it fueled through the day. Nectar is a source of food and water for the rufous hummingbird. They build their nests high in trees. Rufous hummingbirds can be found in forests, meadows, and even your yard!



Pacific Banana Slug

Pacific banana slugs are one of the largest species of slugs. They live on the forest floor in wet, rainy areas. Slugs absorb water through their skin. Banana slugs are great decomposers! They eat dead plant matter and turn it into fertilizer. Banana slugs lay their eggs in logs or under leaves.



Western Rattlesnake

This rattlesnake can live in many places, including meadows, forests, and the shrub-steppe. They are carnivores and eat small animals like mice, birds, and lizards. They get water by eating prey. The snakes hibernate under rocks or in abandoned dens during the winter. They like to bask in the sun during the day.

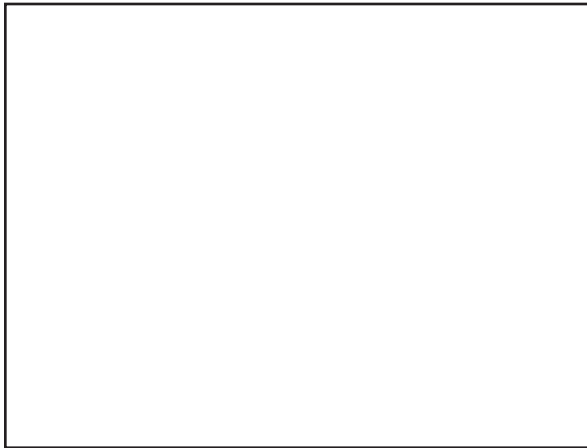


My Habitat Diary

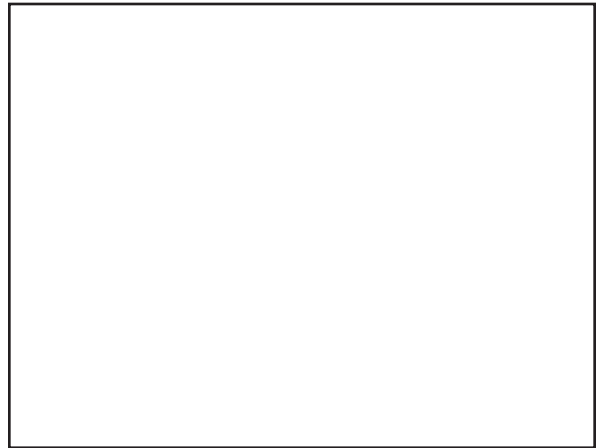
On the last page, you learned about the habitats of some animals that live in Walla Walla County. As humans, we need a habitat, too. In the spaces below, draw and label the things that make up the habitat you live in. How do you get food and water? What is your shelter? What space do you use for exercising or playing or spending time with your friends and family?

_____ 's Habitat

Food



Water



Shelter



Space



Comparing Habitats

1. Where could you find a rufous hummingbird, Pacific banana slug, and western rattlesnake in Walla Walla County?
2. Would any of these animals be able to live in your habitat? Why or why not?
3. Can you think of other animals that have the same diets as the animals you learned about today? List a few below. They may not live in the same place or be the same kind of animal.

Eats nectar	Eats dead plants	Eats other animals
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• rufous hummingbird	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pacific banana slug	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• western rattlesnake

Comparing Habitats

4. (Optional) Go outside into your backyard, front yard, or a public park or green space. See if you can find all the pieces of habitat a rufous hummingbird, Pacific banana slug, and western rattlesnake need to live. Write down or draw each part you can find in the boxes below.

	Rufous Hummingbird	Pacific Banana Slug	Western Rattlesnake
Food			
Water			
Shelter			
Space to build a nest/lay eggs			