

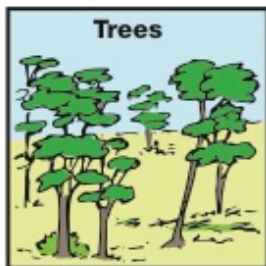
Lesson 4: Resource Sheet 2

Healthy Habitat Checklist

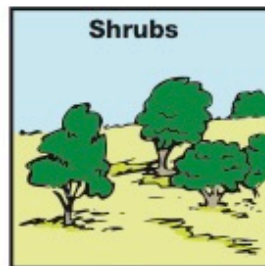
Healthy Habitats

A healthy habitat provides all the things that plants and animals need.
Tick the boxes that describe the area you are looking at.

My area is: _____



<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
none	some	lots



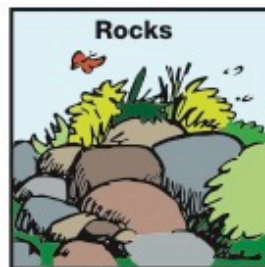
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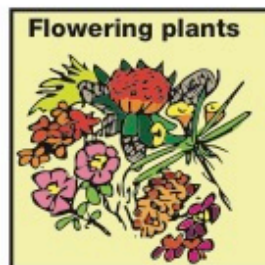
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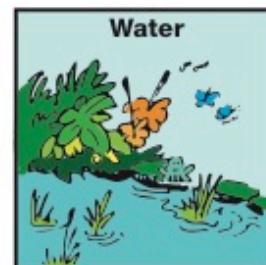
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Interpreting the Habitat Assessment

Area:

The bigger the better! Larger animals and those higher up the food chain need bigger territories. The effective area can be increased by creating wildlife corridors that connect with nature reserves or other areas of natural vegetation.

Layers:

Different animals utilise different layers of vegetation. Some feed on the ground others in the dense shrub layer and others in the canopy. Tall trees provide nesting sites and food for nectar and fruit eaters. Shrubs provide a safe place to hide for small insectivores like wrens and also small possums and gliders. Ground covers, grasses and leaf litter provide the food for finches, lyrebirds, lizards, frogs etc.

Native Plants:

Native plants are adapted to the Australian environment. They require less watering, no fertiliser and provide the right food at the right time for the native animals that evolved with them.

Weeds:

Weeds compete with native plants and therefore decrease the variety of plant life. Camphor Laurel, Privet, Lantana, Asparagus fern, Cassia and Ochna are problem weeds on the Central Coast whose seeds are carried far and wide by birds. Remove these weeds as soon as possible.



Shelter:

- Hollows - nesting sites for birds, possums, bats. Artificial nest boxes are an effective substitute.
- Ponds - homes for frogs, native fish, dragonfly nymphs and other invertebrates and drinking water for larger birds and animals.
- Leaf litter - protects smaller animals like lizards, frogs and invertebrates. Reduces evaporative water loss and reduces erosion.
- Logs & Rocks – shelter for small mammals, lizards, frogs, and invertebrates.

