



TEACHER PACKET

# WASHINGTON WILDLIFE



Matt Hayward, WPZ



# WASHINGTON WILDLIFE

## TEACHER PACKET

*Recommended for grades K–12*

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

#### Background Information

Steppe.....	3
Montane.....	15
Temperate Forest .....	27
Wetlands.....	41
Urban and Suburban.....	53
<b>Vocabulary</b> .....	63
<b>Resources</b> .....	67
<b>Plant List</b> .....	77
<b>Animal List</b> .....	82
<b>Activities</b> .....	87
<b>Animal and Plant Fact Sheets</b> .....	119

Dear Teacher,

Washington state is a wonderland of diverse habitats which are host to unique and beautiful plants and animals. Awaken your senses to the hot parched steppe where a spadefoot toad finds shelter in the cool mud or maybe the wind swept alpine wetland where glacier lilies are the first to salute spring by pushing through the melting snow. By studying the habitats in, or not far from, your own backyard you will heighten your awareness and develop an appreciation for this amazing place. For your students, Washington state will come alive.

For purposes of this packet, we have divided Washington state into five habitat regions: Steppe, Montane, Temperate Forest, Wetlands and Urban. Within each of these habitats similar climatic conditions, geologic characteristics, and species of plants and animals exist. This packet does not, however, cover the amazing and important coastal and marine habitats of our state. (For educational materials on these habitats, see the Contact Information.)

The study of these habitats provides a vehicle for exploring different ecological concepts such as adaptations, biodiversity, human influence on natural systems, food webs, and interdependence. Each section includes information on the natural history, human use, vegetation and animal life of the given habitat. In fact, the organization of habitats in this packet -- starting with Steppe in the eastern part of our state -- is based on the history of how Washington State was formed geologically from east to west.

This teacher packet has been created for use with students in grades K-12. Each section has been designed to be taught on its own, or in conjunction with other habitat sections. The background information has been written to give you a broadly based understanding of each habitat. You may find that some of the materials in background information are suitable to distribute to older students. The activity section includes activities that can be applied to any habitat as well as a few activities that are specific to one habitat or another. Suggestions have been made for appropriate grade levels within each activity, but we encourage you to adapt the activities to meet your needs or the developmental level of your students. The background information and activities have been formulated to help you teach several disciplines and meet the standards set out by the Washington State Essential Academic Learning Requirements and Environmental and Sustainability Education standards.

Additionally, each section includes information on current conservation projects and ideas for how your students can work to take care of that habitat. Many conservation projects use the latest scientific research and some offer opportunities to get students involved and excited about the applications of science. We encourage you to focus this energy by finding programs where your students can collect data, restore habitats or educate others about the important and diverse wildlife in your community.

We know this packet will give you and your students a better understanding and admiration of the truly awesome habitats of Washington state. We hope it inspires you to get outside, get involved and make a difference for the wildlife in your community.

Please see the Education section of the zoo's website ([www.zoo.org](http://www.zoo.org)) for more information or to register for a zoo visit or to schedule a zoo outreach program in your classroom.

Sincerely,

Woodland Park Zoo  
Education Department

---

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

*This content of this packet was developed by Katie Remine and Becky Wandell in Woodland Park Zoo's Education Department. Cover and various packet illustrations by Mette Hanson and Amanda Sartor. We appreciate the time and input contributed by members of the Teacher Advisory Council.*