

**Description**

This inquiry-based field trip examines how plants, animals and nonliving things interact within a habitat. Students explore “investigation stations” and head out on a guided hike in the Huntington Reservation.

**Adult chaperones recommended:** 5

**Content Standards**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Gr</th>
<th>Standard</th>
<th>Objective/“I can” Statements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Life Science</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Living things cause changes on Earth.</td>
<td>I can observe and explain ways that living and non-living things interact in a habitat.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geography</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Human activities alter the environment both positively and negatively.</td>
<td>I can identify ways that humans impact the environment.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| Climate Literacy Principles | 1 | 1. The sun is the primary source of energy for Earth's climate system  
                                | 3. Life on Earth depends on, is shaped by, and affects climate.                               |

**Pre-Trip Activities**

Teachers read: In the Woods: Who’s Been Here? By Lindsay Barrett George.
**Post-Trip Activities at School**

In small collaborative groups, have students come up with their own examples of how humans impact their environment in positive ways.

**Extension Activities**

- Design, build and maintain a worm-composting bin. Journal changes in the system and make connections about what is happening in the bin to what is happening in nature.
- Design and maintain an ant farm. Journal changes in the system and make connections on what is happening in the ant farm to what is happening in nature.
- Observe a plot of land that has been abandoned and make predictions about how the appearance of that property will change if there is no human intervention. If possible, document the changes throughout the year.
- Read a story about environmental change caused by living things and discuss.

**Vocabulary**

- abiotic
- biotic
- competition
- habitat
- species
- invasive species
- living
- native species
- non-living
- non-native
- interact
- scat

**Books**

- Nature's Patchwork Quilt: Understanding Habitats by Mary