

Habitat Rummy

Study Units

[Iowa's Wildlife Resource Base](#); [Iowa's Wildlife Habitats](#)

Supplemental Information

See [Iowa's Wildlife Resource Base](#) for information about animal groups and [Iowa's Wildlife Habitats](#) for information about wildlife habitats. Use reference materials listed in the **Additional Materials** section to research animals and their habitat requirements.

Teaching Suggestions

Have students research animals from the **Forest**, **Prairie**, and / or **Wetland Lists** and develop rummy card sets. Incorporate drawings of habitat components to make the cards. (Note: Some species of wildlife are area-sensitive—need large areas of habitat to survive. Students should clarify the size of habitat needed in the space category.)

Have students fill in the **Habitat Information Chart** using habitat components needed by animals they research. This reinforces components of habitat for each species and can be used as a guide to create cards.

To make this activity more difficult, do not display the master chart. List categories (food, water, shelter, space, suitable arrangement) on the board to remind students of different habitat components. Note that they must collect one of each for each animal.

Have students draw or find pictures of components they think are important. If they draw or otherwise create the card, they will better remember information. Laminate the cards so they last longer.

Evaluation

See the activity.

Student Materials

- Forest List
- Prairie List
- Wetland List

Teacher Aids

Habitat Information Chart

Additional Materials

- [Animal Diversity Web](#) – online field guide including range maps, natural history information, photos, and more on species of mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles, insects, spiders, bees, wasps, etc.
- [Iowa's Prairies – Biological Communities](#) (PDF). Iowa Association of Naturalists publication with



information on types of prairies, plants of Iowa prairies, wildlife of Iowa prairies, prairie ecology and more.

- [Iowa Woodlands – Biological Communities](#) (PDF). Iowa Association of Naturalists' publication about Iowa's woodlands, plants and animals of Iowa woodlands, woodland ecology, and more.
- [Iowa Wetlands – Biological Communities](#) (PDF). Iowa Association of Naturalists publication about Iowa's wetlands, plants and animals that live in Iowa wetlands, wetland ecology, protecting wetlands, and more.
- Thompson, J.R. 1992. *Prairies, Forests and Wetlands: The Restoration of Natural Landscape Communities in Iowa*. Iowa City: University of Iowa Press. This is available as an [ePub download with a Scribd subscription](#).
- Wallace, M.D. 2004. *America's Wetlands: Guide to Plants and Animals*. Golden, CO: Fulcrum Publishing.
- [Reptiles and Amphibians of Iowa](#) – includes diversity map
- [A Complete Field Guide of Iowa Herpetology](#) – information about salamanders, frogs and toads, turtles, lizards, and snakes.
- [eBird](#) - A real-time, online checklist program, eBird has revolutionized the way that the birding community reports and accesses information about birds. Launched in 2002 by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society, eBird provides rich data sources for basic information on bird abundance and distribution at a variety of spatial and temporal scales.
- [Mammals of Iowa Field Guide](#) - Iowa State University Extension and Iowa Department of Natural Resources.



Forest List

Following are some animals that might be found in an Iowa forest:

Mammals

bobcat	eastern chipmunk	eastern cottontail	fox squirrel
grey fox	hoary bat	Indiana bat	long-tailed weasel
opossum	raccoon	southern flying squirrel	striped skunk
white-tailed deer	white footed mouse		

Birds

American woodcock	barred owl	black-capped chickadee	brown thrasher
common flicker	Cooper's hawk	dark-eyed junco	downy woodpecker
eastern wild turkey	grey catbird	great horned owl	hairy woodpecker
indigo bunting	northern cardinal	northern oriole	pileated woodpecker
red-bellied woodpecker	red-headed woodpecker	red-tailed hawk	rose-breasted grosbeak
ruffed grouse	scarlet tanager	screech owl	sharp-shinned hawk
tufted titmouse	wood thrush	yellow-bellied sapsucker	

Invertebrates

centipede	earthworm	millipede	snail
sowbug			

Spiders, ticks, mites

daddy longlegs	deer tick	wolf spider	wood tick
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Reptiles

brown snake	fox snake	milk snake	timber rattlesnake
wood turtle			

Amphibians

American toad	central newt	grey tree frog	
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Moths and butterflies

cecropia moth	eastern tent caterpillar	eastern tiger swallowtail	fall webworm
giant swallowtail	luna moth		

Insects

aphids	bald-faced hornet	black carpenter ant	cicada
deer fly	field cricket	fireflies	grasshopper
honeybee	horse fly	katydid	ladybug beetle
may beetle / June bug	mosquito	termites	walking stick



Prairie List

Following are some animals that might be found in an Iowa prairie:

Mammals

badger
eastern mole
prairie vole

bison
Franklin's ground squirrel
red fox

coyote
least shrew
spotted skunk

elk
plains pocket gopher
thirteen-lined ground squirrel

whitetail jackrabbit

Birds

American goldfinch
dickcissel
upland sandpiper

American kestrel
grasshopper sparrow
western meadowlark

bobolink
northern harrier

burrowing owl
short-eared owl

Reptiles

bullsnake
western hognose snake

northern prairie skink

ornate box turtle

prairie rattlesnake

Amphibians

plains spadefoot toad

Moths and butterflies

regal fritillary butterfly

monarch butterfly

skippers

Insects and invertebrates

aphid
honeybee

bumble bee
praying mantis

earthworm

garden spider



Wetland List

Following are some animals that might be found in an Iowa wetland:

Mammals

beaver	meadow vole	mink	muskrat
short-tail shrew			

Birds

American coot	belted kingfisher	bufflehead	Canada goose
common yellowthroat	great blue heron	herring gull	least tern
mallard	marsh wren	peregrine falcon	red-winged blackbird
spotted sandpiper	trumpeter swan	wood duck	yellow warbler
yellow-headed blackbird			

Invertebrates

dragonfly	damselfly	giant water beetle	leech
mayfly	mosquito	orb snail	pond crayfish
scud	water boatman		

Reptiles

map turtle	massasauga	norther water snake	plains garter snake
snapping turtle	western painted turtle	western ribbon snake	

Amphibians

bullfrog	chorus frog	northern leopard frog	tiger salamander
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Fish

Black bullhead	Common carp		
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Habitat Information Chart

		Animals			
Habitat Component	Food				
	Water				
	Shelter				
	Space				
	Arrangement				

