



Habitat Collapse Game

Objectives: Participants will learn what happens when part of an ecosystem collapses.

Time to complete activity: 30-40 minutes

Background/Setting the Stage: What happens when a part of an ecosystem collapses? From our food web game earlier, can we guess what may happen if a part of an ecosystem disappears? In this game, participants will learn how deforestation/human development is decreasing available habitat and how it stresses wildlife populations.

Materials: Cones/Chairs- something to make a square.

Activity: Use cones/chairs or some type of item to create a square. Break the students into two groups and have them start at opposite ends of the square. One side represents shelter and one represents food and water. Participants have to move from one side of the square to the other in order to get food/water/ shelter. They cannot touch another person or they are out! Keep decreasing the size of the square until only a few individuals left. This is a great game to talk about how decreasing habitat space for wildlife strains the population. For added difficulty have the students find a mate and working in pairs and linking arms (do not let them turn sideways to let others pass).

Reflection Questions: (Journal or Discussion)

1. What was the most difficult part of this activity?
2. How do you think animals adapt to shrinking habitat? Can you give some examples of how animals have started coexisting with humans? (Ex: raccoons getting into trash for food, bears coming into campsites and taking food, spiders or other insects that come into homes for shelter, etc.)
3. What do you think will happen if we continue to decrease the amount of suitable habitats for wildlife?