

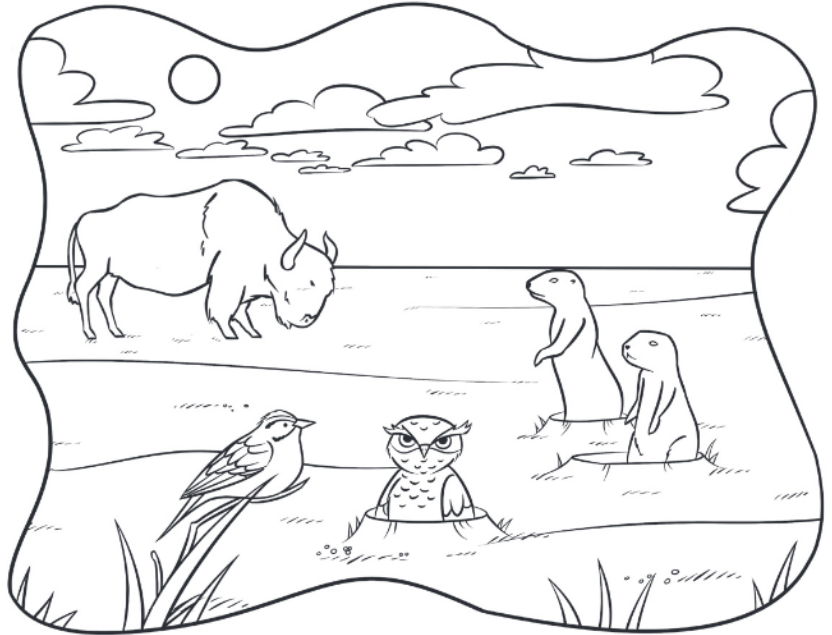
# Different Types of Habitats

There are many types of habitats around the world. Let us look at some types of habitats in North America.

## Prairie

Prairies can be called grasslands because they are covered with grasses. Many types of flowers are found there too. Trees and bushes do not grow well there.

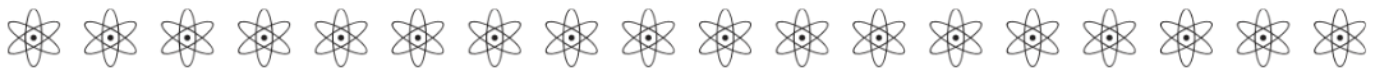
Buffalo and pronghorn antelope eat prairie grasses. Wolves, coyotes, and foxes live in the prairie. They eat smaller animals, such as gophers and prairie dogs. Ground squirrels live on the ground and dig underground homes. Sparrows, hawks, and owls are birds that live in the prairie habitat.



## City

Cities are habitats for humans, plants, and wild creatures. Ants dig homes in the sidewalk cracks. Birds hunt for worms on lawns. Mice live in people's houses. Trees and plants grow around homes. Weeds grow in ditches. Grasses and bushes grow in fields. Trees grow in city parks.

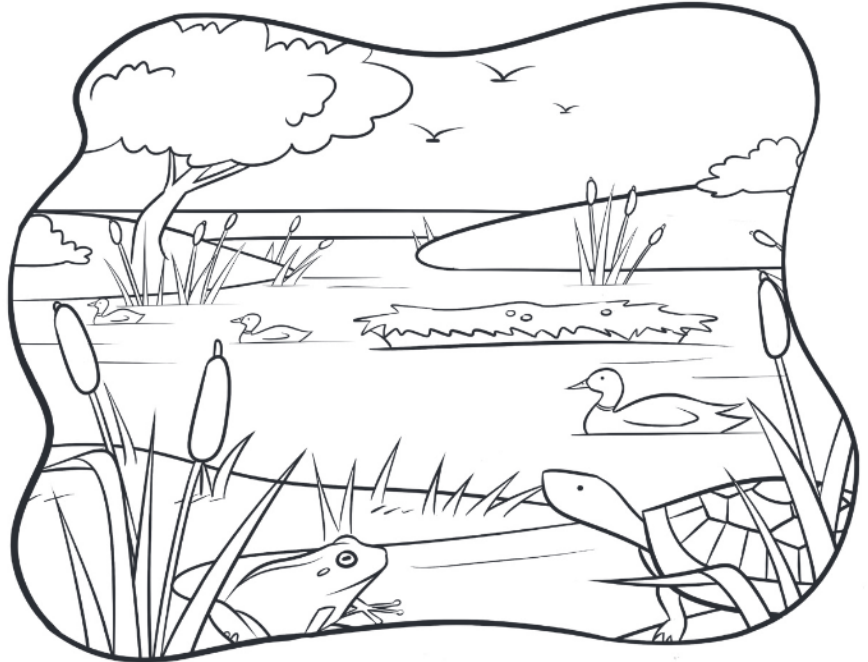




## Wetland

Wetlands are found between water and dry land. Swamps and marshes are wetlands. This habitat may be very wet and muddy most of the time. Or it may be under water.

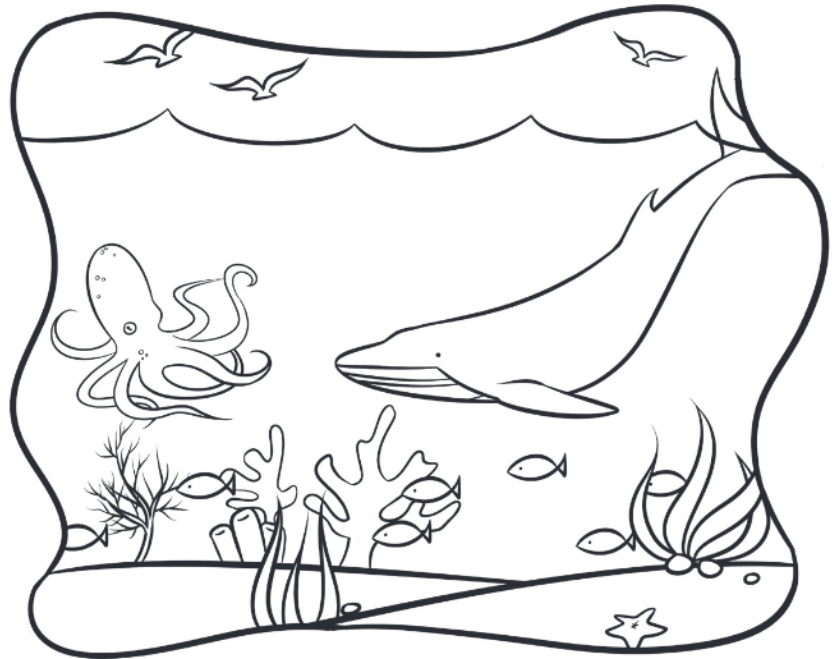
Trees, grasses, and bushes can grow in wetlands. Mosquitoes, butterflies, fish, turtles, ducks, frogs, and snakes are just a few animals that can live in wetlands.



## Ocean

Lots of animals live in the world's oceans. Whales and sharks are some of the larger ocean animals. Smaller animals include octopuses, jellyfish, and shrimp. Plankton are ocean creatures that are so tiny that you need a microscope to see them. Brown, red, and green seaweed are plants that grow in an ocean habitat.

Birds that live above the ocean. They are also part of the ocean habitat because they hunt there.



### Brain Stretch

Sometimes areas become what is called a critical habitat. This happens when a species is threatened, or is near extinction, and needs protection. Laws to prevent killing, removing, or bothering of the species protect the critical habitat. This effort helps the species survive and thrive.

Create a poster about a critical habitat near your community. Make sure to include information on what caused this area to become a critical habitat. Describe what is being done to help this area recover.



## "Different Types of Habitats"—Think About It!

Read about the animals below. Then write in the chart which habitat (prairie, city, wetland, or ocean) you think each animal lives in. Give reasons for your answer.

- **Raccoons** tip over people's garbage cans and make a big mess as they look for food.
- **Coral** is beautiful to look at, but scuba divers have to be careful. Coral can be very sharp and cause a nasty cut.
- **Alligators** live in swampy areas where they hunt animals that live in water and on land.
- **Badgers** are fantastic diggers that hunt animals that live in underground homes, such as ground squirrels.

<b>1. Raccoon</b>	Habitat:
Why I think so:	
<b>2. Coral</b>	Habitat:
Why I think so:	
<b>3. Alligator</b>	Habitat:
Why I think so:	
<b>4. Badger</b>	Habitat:
Why I think so:	

### Brain Stretch

On a separate piece of paper, draw and label your own habitat. What kind of animals and plants will live in your habitat? What kind of climate will it have? How much precipitation?

# Answers

## **Different Types of Habitats, p. 278**

1. Raccoon habitat: city. Raccoons hunt for food in garbage cans, and a city is a place where garbage cans are available as a food supply.
2. Coral habitat: ocean. If scuba divers have to be careful of coral, then coral must live in an underwater habitat.
3. Alligator habitat: wetland. A wetland provides swampy areas and places to hunt both water and land animals.
4. Badger habitat: prairie. Badgers hunt ground squirrels, which live in prairie habitats.