

Preferred Destinations

Overview

A building or a yard contains many places that are perfect for pests to live and get food and water. Focussing on the needs and preferences of a specific pest, students design a travel brochure or poster highlighting one or several “preferred destinations” in the building or grounds.

Objectives

Students will:

- describe things necessary in a habitat
- apply their knowledge of pest needs

Materials

assorted travel brochures, *All About Pest* worksheets from lesson #6, markers, paper, colored paper, scissors and glue

Duration

1 hour

Subjects

science, art

Background

All living things have roles and places that they normally live. The place where a living thing lives and gets what it needs to survive is called its habitat. In IPM we pay a great deal of attention to the habitat and biology of a pest. We ask: what is it about my kitchen that makes cockroaches want to live there? We learn about why pests may be in certain places so we can do things to change or modify the habitat so it is no longer conducive to pests. In IPM, habitat modification may include cleaning and fixing things so that we take away food, water, hiding places, and their way in.

Doing the Activity

Step 1: Discussion. Display several real travel posters and/or brochures. Holding them up, ask the class: *What do we like in a place to live or visit? What would our perfect location be? Would a mouse or a cockroach like the same thing? Why not? Does a pest need the same conditions as us?*

What does every living thing need in a habitat? During the discussion write key responses on the board or overhead.

Step 2: Favorite Pest Habitats. Students can work alone or in groups for this activity. Assign a pest to each student or group, or allow them to select their own. You may wish to have the students read the wanted posters or *All About Pest* worksheets from lesson #6 for background information on specific pests. Ask the students to write down the places the pest likes to live and why. For example, German cockroaches like to live in walls because they prefer dark, damp places where they have pressure on at least two sides of their bodies.

Step 3: Create Travel Brochures. Ask the students to select a location that the pest likes and design a brochure/poster for that place. Depending on the pest, the location may be: under the kitchen sink, in the basement, under the refrigerator, in drains, etc. Some suggestions to include in the

brochures or posters are: a fun, catchy name of the resort, description of location, slogan that describes why the pest should come there, and what this location has to offer. If they are having trouble, suggest to them that this is like creating a vacation spot for Oscar the Grouch on Sesame Street. The perfect spot for him is very different than for us.

Step 4: Presenting to the Class. Ask each student or group to present their posters or brochures to the class. Hang the creations around the classroom or school.

Closure/Assessment: Discuss with the class what they did today. Use the focus questions to generate discussion. Ask the students to write a paragraph on how they would shut down the resort they created a brochure for.

Focus Questions

What preferred destinations for pests do we have in our classroom?

What could we do to get rid of them?

Are there other parts of the school that would be a preferred destination for pests?

What could we do there?

How would we shut down the resorts that we created today?

Enrichment

1. Make a map highlighting the preferred destinations, like a walking map from “hot spot” to “hot spot.”
2. Ask the students to write a story about a pest visiting the resort that they described in their brochure or poster. What did the pest do there? What was the favorite attraction? Was it crowded?

