Habitat Stats
3rd grade

Overview
Many arthropods are found around the schoolyard. Some arthropods in the schoolyard may have very specific requirements that are found in some areas of the schoolyard and not in others. This could lead to different number of species living in different habitats. For example, a particular kind of beetle may be found near creosote bushes but not in the open or under any other kind of shrub. This activity will allow students to examine these relationships. Students use pitfall traps to investigate the types and numbers of ground arthropods in two different habitats in the schoolyard.

Vocabulary
• *arthropod* – an invertebrate animal of the large phylum Arthropoda, such as an insect, spider, or crustacean having an exoskeleton
• *habitat* - the natural home or environment of an animal, plant, or other organism

**NM Science Standards Addressed**
1-1-1-1 Make new observations when discrepancies exist between two descriptions of the same object or phenomenon to improve accuracy.
1-1-1-2 Recognize the difference between data and opinion.
1-1-1-3 Use numerical data in describing and comparing objects, events, and measurements.
1-1-1-4 Collect data in an investigation and analyze those data.
1-1-1-5 Know that the same scientific laws govern investigations in different times and places.
1-1-2-1 Understand that in doing science it is often helpful to work with a team and share findings.
1-1-2-2 Make accurate observations and communicate findings about investigations.
1-1-3-1 Use numerical data in describing and comparing objects, events, and measurements.
1-1-3-2 Pose a question of interest and present observations and measurements with accuracy.
1-1-3-3 Use various methods to display data and present findings and communicate results in accurate mathematical language.
2-2-1-1 Know that an adaptation in physical structure or behavior can improve an organism’s chance for survival.
2-2-1-2 Observe that plants and animals have structures that serve different functions.
2-2-1-3 Classify common animals according to their observable characteristics.

**CCSS Language Arts Standards Addressed**
SL.3.1 Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade 3 topics and texts, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.
SL.3.1.B Follow agreed-upon rules for discussions (e.g., gaining the floor in respectful ways, listening to others with care, speaking one at a time about the topics and texts under discussion).
SL.3.1.C Ask questions to check understanding of information presented, stay on topic, and link their comments to the remarks of others.
SL.3.1.D Explain their own ideas and understanding in light of the discussion.
SL.3.3 Ask and answer questions about information from a speaker, offering appropriate elaboration and detail.

**Next Generation Science Standards Addressed**
3-LS4-3 Construct an argument with evidence that in a particular habitat some organisms can survive well, some survive less well, and some cannot survive at all.