Habitat Stats
5th 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 Plan and conduct investigations, including formulating testable questions, making systematic observations, developing logical conclusions, and communicating findings.
1-1-1-2 Use appropriate technologies (e.g., calculators, computers, balances, spring scales, microscopes) to perform scientific tests and to collect and display data.
1-1-1-3 Use graphic representations (e.g., charts, graphs, tables, labeled diagrams) to present data and produce explanations for investigations.
1-1-1-5 Communicate the steps and results of a scientific investigation.
1-1-2-1 Understand that different kinds of investigations are used to answer different kinds of questions (e.g., observations, data collection, controlled experiments).

CCSS Language Arts Standards Addressed
SL.5.1 Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade 5 topics and texts, building on others’ ideas and expressing their own clearly.
SL.5.1.B Follow agreed-upon rules for discussions and carry out assigned roles.
SL.5.1.C Pose and respond to specific questions by making comments that contribute to the discussion and elaborate on the remarks of others.