

# Habitat Ecology Learning Program (HELP)

Students grades 4-6



*Exciting interdisciplinary ecology program for elementary students:*

- *Students engage in hands-on activities through a rich six-module curriculum.*
- *Detailed lesson plans and student activities are contained in each module.*

## Results



- *88% of teachers have improved the quality of their science teaching by adopting new strategies or using effective instructional strategies more frequently.*
- *82% of students have increased their understanding of fundamental concepts in habitat ecology.*
- *HELP has a positive impact on student motivation in science: students write and read more in science, engage in more hands-on activities, and work more in cooperative groups.*
- *94% of responding parents observed students explaining habitat ecology concepts and applying them to new situations.*

## The Program

The Habitat Ecology Learning Program (HELP) is an exciting, interdisciplinary curriculum designed to encourage students to use language arts, life sciences, social studies, and math to explore the richness of ecology. This hands-on program consists of six modules: *How Nature Works*, *Rain Forests*, *Grasslands*, *Wetlands*, *Deserts*, and *Temperate Forests*.

HELP can be used as a stand-alone, year-long curriculum or incorporated into your existing program as an exciting, motivational supplement. Each HELP module contains roughly 22 detailed lessons and can be taught in sequence with other modules or by itself. At its core, HELP is a life science program that lends itself to interdisciplinary implementation and team teaching.

HELP address the biological, physical, and cultural attributes of five important habitats. Although the approach and student activities differ in each module, the following key concepts are covered in all six: plant and animal adaptations, competition, predation, climate, energy flow, challenges to survival, human cultures, and much more.

HELP has been rigorously tested and has also been validated by the United States Department of Education as a program of exceptional merit. The program meets the national standards.

HELP is used in over 2,564 classrooms in 41 states and the District of Columbia. In addition, in New York State, it is also being replicated in over 880 classrooms.

## Professional Development

The Bronx Zoo's Education Department offers dynamic multi-day training workshops that prepare teachers to use HELP effectively. Workshops typically span 1 to 5 days. HELP materials are provided to all trained teachers. Workshops are offered at the Bronx Zoo year-round, including weekends during the academic year. Our staff also travels nationwide; we will come to your school or local zoo for on-site teacher training.

## Costs & Funding Options

The total cost for all six modules is \$300.00, but teachers can buy the modules individually. Additional costs are associated with training. Please call for details. We will gladly explore with you sources for private funding within your locality and collaborate on writing a proposal.

## Learning Standards

**Social Studies:** 3) use a variety of intellectual skills to demonstrate their understanding of the geography of the interdependent world in which we live — local, national, and global — including the distribution of people, places, and environments over the Earth's surface.

**Mathematics, Science and Technology:** 7) apply the knowledge and thinking skills of mathematics, science, and technology to address real-life problems and make informed decisions.

## Contact

Ann Robinson  
Director of National Programs  
Bronx Zoo Education Department  
Wildlife Conservation Society  
185<sup>th</sup> St. & Southern Boulevard  
Bronx, NY 10460  
718-220-5131  
Fax: 718-220-1057  
Website: [www.wcs.org](http://www.wcs.org)