

HABITAT DESIGNER

STUDENT NAME:

CLASS:

DATE:

YOUR WILDLIFE AREA'S NAME: _____

Greetings, Habitat Designer!

Upland game birds are a family of heavy, ground-living birds that reproduce quickly, have tasty game meat, and are a classic favorite for the hunter. But habitat loss is one of the biggest threats to these beloved birds and the hunting tradition. And let's face it ... All living things need **habitat** to survive! As habitat designer, you know this better than most. It is your job to ensure that your wildlife area has all the necessary habitat resources to sustain your game bird populations and hunters. And thanks to your designing expertise, your **wildlife area** will have the best arrangement of food, water, space, and cover resources that will conserve your game bird species for future generations!



First, as a group, pick the **upland game bird species** your wildlife area will support: _____

To make sure your wildlife area has quality habitat for your game bird, research about the following:

- What kind of habitats does your bird prefer to hang out? _____

- What kinds of foods does your game bird eat? What food resources do younglings and juveniles need to survive?

- What kinds of habitat would provide an abundance of prey and food sources? _____

- What predators eat your gamebirds? What do your game birds use to find cover from predators? _____

- Where does your bird prefer to breed? _____

- Where does your bird prefer to nest? _____

- What resources do they need to build their nest? _____

- What resources do they need to rest from warm climates? _____

- Does your bird migrate to warmer climates during the winter? If not, what food and cover resources could you provide for winter conditions? _____

- How could you arrange your habitats so your birds can easily travel from habitat to habitat?

- What kind of movement corridors will you provide that protect your game bird species travel between various habitats?

- Where do your game bird species prefer to get their water? _____

- What human recreation will your wildlife area support as well? What resources will you need to build within your habitats? _____

- How can your habitat be managed to provide more opportunities for hunting? Consult your Hunter Mastermind.

Next, combine your research findings with your team members. As a group, use all of your discoveries to **design and craft your own wildlife area upon a cardboard sheet**. Then let your imagination run wild! You may paint, sketch, mold clay, cut construction paper, or even glue in natural resources like sticks, pebbles, sand, moss, grasses, branch clippings, and more. Your final masterpiece should indefinitely support your chosen game bird species and provide families (such as your own) with excellent hunting opportunities!

Your group will present your wildlife area diorama to the class with supporting research and reasons for your management practices. After a final vote, the group who ends up with the most “people” supporting their wildlife area will win the challenge!



Need more ideas for your game bird haven? Perhaps consider searching online or visiting wildlife areas near you that support your game bird species. You can discover their habitats and the wildlife management practices occurring at the site.