

# Home Sweet Home



## Introduction

Every plant, animal and human needs a place to live. Our **habitat** provides what we need to survive: food, water, shelter, space and safety. A plant or animal's habitat can be a pond, a coral reef, a forest, a meadow, a desert, a sandy shore or a kelp forest. Granny and her clan are called **residents** because they spend most of their time in their Salish Sea home range. Their habitat provides salmon and space for their family to survive. Another group of orcas, called **transients**, sometime pass through the home range of the residents. Transients live in small family groups that travel along the entire Pacific coast. Unlike Granny's clan who eat only fish, transients hunt marine mammals like seals, porpoise and whales. When transients and residents travel through the same area, they avoid each other, with one group leaving if the other is present. Like orcas, humans have habitats that help us survive. Our human habitats include our homes, yards, neighborhoods, stores, parks, roads and towns.

## Key Concepts

- ◆ All plants, animals and people need a habitat to meet their survival needs.
- ◆ Habitats provide food, water, shelter, space and safety.
- ◆ Different orca clans share the same ocean habitat but live different lifestyles.

## National Science Education Standards

**Science as Inquiry** – Ability to Do Scientific Inquiry, Understanding About Scientific Inquiry (K-4)

**Life Science** – Characteristics of Organisms. Organisms and their Environments (K-4)

Characteristics and Changes in Populations (K-4)

**National Council for Teachers of English/  
International Reading Association Standards:**

4. Students adjust their use of spoken, written and visual language to communicate effectively with a variety of audiences and for different purposes.
8. Students use a variety of technological and information resources to gather and synthesize information and to create and communicate knowledge.

## Inquiry Questions

- ◆ Why does every plant, animal and human need a habitat?
- ◆ How does a habitat help a plant or animal survive?
- ◆ Could you live in an orca's habitat? Could an orca live in your habitat? Why?
- ◆ Why do you think resident and transient orcas avoid each other?
- ◆ If a plant or animal loses its habitat, can it survive?
- ◆ How does your home help you survive? Food? Water? Shelter? Clothing? Space? Safety?

# Home Sweet Home (Continued pg 2)

## Activity #1-Wanted: Habitat for Orcas

In this activity, students design an ideal habitat for the orcas in Granny's clan.

**Procedure:** Take a virtual trip to the Salish Sea to learn how scientists follow the orca whales.

1. Ask students to close their eyes and imagine that they are orcas in Granny's clan. Visualize an ideal habitat. What do orcas need to survive? How can they get it? What does it look like?
2. Distribute Wanted: Habitat for Orcas worksheet.
3. Ask students to describe and draw pictures of their ideal orca habitat.
4. Help the orcas write an advertisement for an ideal orca habitat.
5. Give Granny and her clan a deed to their idea habitat.

## Activity #2 -Create an Orca Wall Mural

In this activity, students transform a classroom wall into an undersea orca habitat.

**Materials Needed:** roll of butcher paper, tape, scissors, paints, markers, construction paper, glue, crepe paper, crayons, string, yarn, brushes

**Procedure:**

1. Cut a long piece of butcher paper and tape to classroom wall.
2. Make a general sketch for the mural.
3. Paint background blue-green. Paint rocks, plants, birds and animals on mural.
4. Assign students to draw and cut out orcas and other animals. Try to create 3D effect.
5. Make kelp from green crepe paper. Hang kelp and animals from ceiling or attach to mural.

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## Activity #3 -How Many Fish?

In this activity, students calculate how many salmon the orcas of Granny's clan will need in their ideal habitat.

**Procedure:** Use this information to calculate an Orca Food Budget for Granny's clan:

1. Each orca eats about 15 Chinook salmon each day
2. Each salmon weighs an average of 20 lbs. each
3. 365 days per year
4. 87 orcas in Granny's clan

**How many Salmon are needed each year by Granny's clan?**

### **Daily Food Budget**

\_\_\_\_\_ Total number of orcas in Granny's clan  
X \_\_\_\_\_ # of salmon eaten by each orca per day  
\_\_\_\_\_ Total # salmon needed by clan each day

### **Yearly Food Budget**

\_\_\_\_\_ Daily # of salmon eaten by clan  
X \_\_\_\_\_ # of days per year  
\_\_\_\_\_ Total # of salmon needed by clan per year

**How many lbs. of salmon does an orca eat each day?**

\_\_\_\_\_ # of Chinook salmon eaten by an orca each day  
X \_\_\_\_\_ Average weight of each Chinook  
\_\_\_\_\_ Total # lbs. of salmon needed by an orca each day

**How many lbs. of salmon are needed each year by Granny's clan?**

### **Daily Food Budget**

\_\_\_\_\_ Total number of orcas in Granny's clan  
X \_\_\_\_\_ # of lbs. salmon eaten by each orca per day  
\_\_\_\_\_ Total # lbs. of salmon needed by clan each day

### **Yearly Food Budget**

\_\_\_\_\_ Daily #lbs. of salmon eaten by clan  
X \_\_\_\_\_ # of days per year  
\_\_\_\_\_ Total # lbs. of salmon needed by clan per year

*Granny's Clan: A Tale of Wild Orcas*  
Dr. Sally Hodson

## **WANTED: HABITAT FOR ORCAS**

Name	Date

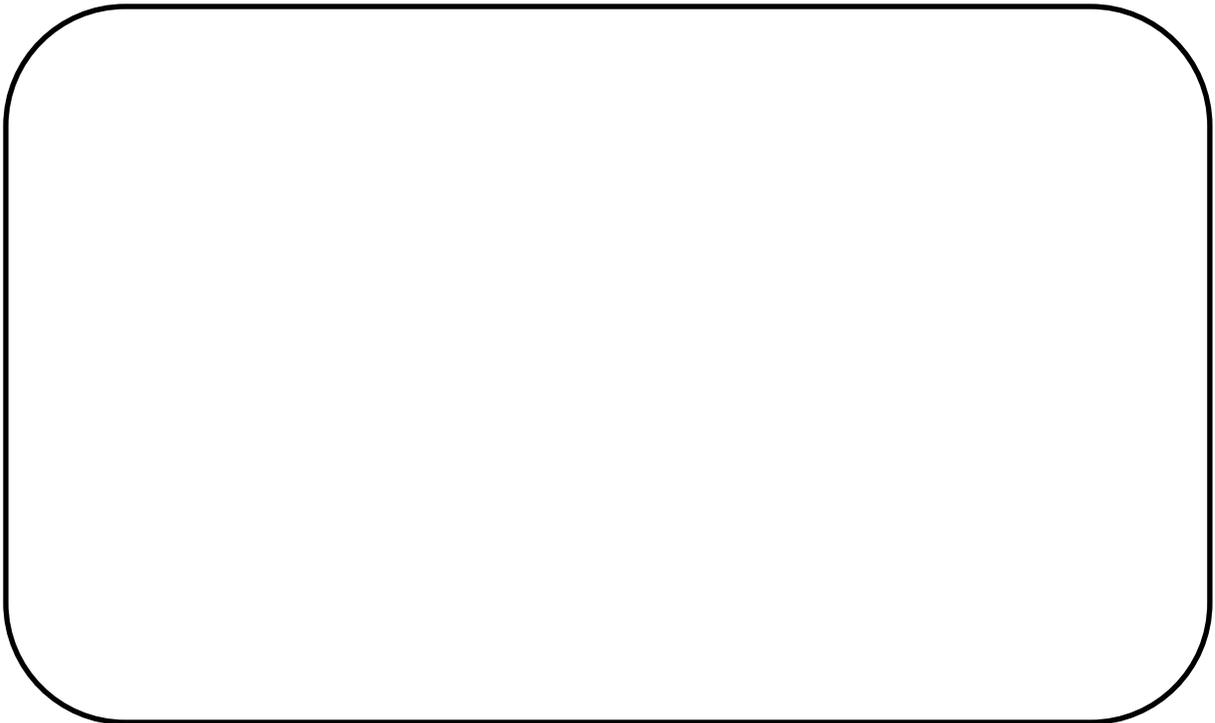
### **ORCA HABITAT CHECKLIST**

Imagine that you are an orca in Granny's clan. Describe what you need in your habitat to survive.

Food \_\_\_\_\_  
Clean water \_\_\_\_\_  
Safety \_\_\_\_\_  
Space \_\_\_\_\_

Draw a picture of Granny's clan in their ideal habitat. Label each part of their habitat.

### **ORCA HABITAT**



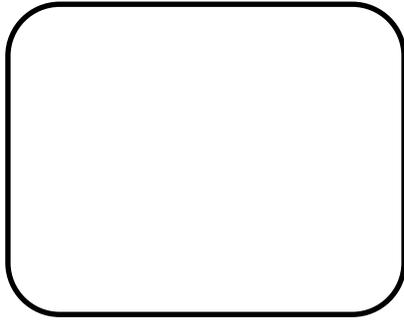
## WANTED: HABITAT FOR ORCAS

Write a newspaper want ad for an ideal habitat for the orcas of Granny's clan.

*Example:*

**WANTED:** Home in the Sea. Great oceanfront views. Salish Sea location. Friendly marine wildlife neighbors. Lots of tasty salmon. Clean water, free of toxins & sewage runoff. Room to play and raise young. Quiet area with little boat noise.

Write your own **ORCA HABITAT WANT AD**



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## DEED TO ORCA HABITAT

Design a deed to give Granny and her clan a deed to their orca habitat.

*Example:*

**DEED**  
to  
**ORCA HABITAT**  
*Let it be known that*

**Orcas of Granny's clan**  
*J pod, K pod, L pod*

and all their future grandchildren

are the true and legal owners  
of their habitat in the Salish Sea.

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

