

# Ecosystems, Conservation, Habitats and Outdoor Activities

## South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks

[Custer State Park](#) General information, buffalo roundup and more.

[Dakota WILD Newsletter](#) Join the e-mail newslst.

[Free Class Trips Teachers](#) Outdoor Campus field trip.

[Game, Fish and Parks Publications and Brochures](#)

[If You Care, Leave it There!](#) Information on when an animal may need help, South Dakota animal litter size and more.

[Introduced Species Information](#) on non-native species in South Dakota.

[Newton Hills State Park](#) General information.

[Project Wild](#) Outside activities to do with children.

[Palisades State Park](#) Geology, history and more.

[Rare, Threatened or Endangered Animals](#)

[Resources](#) available for teachers at The Outdoor Campus

[South Dakota State Park Junior Naturalist Program](#) Learn about the rich, natural and cultural history of South Dakota and become physically active.

[Wildlife Diversity Program](#) (many links).

## PBS Resources

### American Field Guide

[Ecosystems Online Videos](#) Learn about the importance of healthy ecosystems and the interdependence of life in these delicate natural communities.

[Fire and Fire Suppression](#) Examine the concept of fire management in ecosystems and the role of forest fires in maintaining diversity.

[The Formation and Value of Temperate Grasslands](#) Learn about the plants and animals of the Temperate Grasslands biome of North America, and examine the influence of biotic and abiotic factors on the ecosystem. Create graphs and analyze climate patterns of the Temperate Grasslands.

[Non-Native Species Resources](#)

[Native Species Restoration](#)

### Dragonfly TV

[Baby Animals](#) Dragonfly TV investigates baby animals. Activity guide, watch program online and more.

[Garbology \(Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle Lesson\)](#)

[Geysers](#) Dragonfly TV investigates geysers. Activity guide, watch program online and more.

[Glaciers](#) Dragonfly TV investigates glaciers. Activity guide, watch program online and more.

[Rivers](#) Dragonfly TV investigates rivers. Activity guide, watch program online and more.

[Rocks](#) Dragonfly TV investigates types of rocks. Activity guide, watch program online and more.

[Temperate Rain Forest](#) Tree growth rates, growth rings and more.

### **Earth on Edge**

[What are Ecosystems?](#) Freshwater, forest, grasslands and more.

### **Great Lodges**

[Dark and Beautiful Caves](#) Construct a clay model of Oregon Caves National Monument depicting various dripstone formations found within the cave.

### **Iowa Public Television Connections to Science**

[Geology](#) Learn about what rocks are made of, how geologists test rocks, and where minerals are found in household items. ([Clip 1](#)/ [Clip 2](#)/ [Clip 3](#)/ [Clip 4](#))

### **Journey to Planet Earth**

[What are Ecosystems?](#) Educational resources about ecosystems.

### **KLRN Planet Patrol**

[Planet Patrol](#) This website is designed to help children between the ages of 6 and 9 learn about conservation and the environment.

### **The Living Eden**

[Ngorongoro: Scavengers, Always Picking Up After Someone](#) Learn about ecosystems, food chains, herbivores, carnivores and more.

### **Louisiana Public Broadcasting Enviro-TackleBox™**

[Non-Native Invasion](#) Enviro-Tacklebox™ is a video series, designed for middle school students, that focuses on environmental education topics.

### **Mathline**

[Farming and Gardening](#) Calculate area using acres and rods. Make comparisons using different units of measurements, and apply them to questions dealing with farms and agriculture.

### **NOVA**

[The Mysterious Life of Caves: How Caves Form \(interactive\)](#) Discover how bacteria, mildly acidic rainwater, ocean waves and lava can form caves.

### **PBS Kids GO EekoWorld**

[EekoWorld](#) Online interactive conservation website.

### **PBS Teachers**

[Thematic Teaching: Development and Environment](#) PBS helps you look at the intersection between the environment and global development through multiple disciplines, with activity ideas and online and printable resources. Grades 3-5, 6-8, 9-12

[Thematic Teaching: Earth Day at Thirty-Five](#) PBS helps you celebrate Earth Day through multiple disciplines, with activity ideas and online and printable resources. Grades 3-5, 6-8, 9-12

### **Plains Folk from Prairie Public Radio**

[Cave Hills](#) Radio program describing Cave Hills.

### **Planet H2O**

[Water Use and Conservation](#) In this investigation, students learn what it means to conserve water.

### **Scientific American Frontiers**

[Wild Places: Growing Prairie](#) Explore efforts to return parts of the American prairie using controlled cultivation and grazing. Compare and contrast the effects of various levels of ground shade on new seedlings.

### **Secrets of the Ocean Realm**

[Survival in the Sea](#) Learn about producers and consumers.

### **WGBH: Teacher's Domain**

[Population Growth, Including the Leafy Spurge/ Water Conservation](#) Teachers' Domain is an online library of more than 1,000 free media resources from the best in public television. These classroom resources, featuring media from NOVA, Frontline, Design Squad, American Experience, and other public broadcasting and content partners are easy to use and correlate to state and national standards.

### **WGVU Teacher Resources**

[Habitat Earth: Wildlife](#) Online video and teacher guide about habitats.

### **South Dakota Department of Agriculture**

[Resource Conservation and Forestry](#) Conservation contest information, how to care for a Christmas tree, information on pests and more.

### **Badlands National Park, South Dakota**

[Badlands Lesson](#) Plans Lessons for K-8.

[Badlands View](#) A Virtual Experience of the Badlands.

[Caves and Karts](#) Teacher Guide

[Teachers Corner](#) Prairie ecology, erosion lesson and more.

[Visitors Guide.](#)

### **Wind Cave National Park, South Dakota**

[Wind Cave Curriculum Materials](#) Lessons about watershed, groundwater, caves and more. Click on "Water in the Environment", "Connections" and "More".

### **National Resource Conservation Service**

[Backyard Conservation Publication](#) Whether you have acres in the country, an average-sized suburban yard, or a tiny plot in the city, you can help protect the environment and add beauty and interest to your surroundings. This colorful publication can get you started.

[Backyard Conservation Lesson Plans](#)

[Tip Sheets](#)

## **United States Fish and Wildlife Service**

[Invasive Species](#) - Invasive Species Activities page of the USFWS Invasive Species Web Portal.

[Soil Education](#) Erosion, water cycle, formation of soil, soil classifications and more.

## **USGS**

[Karts Topography - Teacher's Guide and Paper Model](#) Information about caves, sinkholes and more.

## **US Fish and Wildlife Service**

[National Wildlife Refuges in South Dakota](#)

## **USDA**

[Conservation Education - Just for Teachers](#) Activity sites, books to read and/or order online and links to additional resources for teachers.

[Conservation Education Teachers](#) Lesson plans for kindergarten - high school.

[Conservation Education Students](#) Links to resources catered to students searching for specific conservation information.

[Conservation Education Kids](#) Smokey the Bear, Woodsy Owl and USDA Kids.

[NatureWatch](#) This site provides children and adults the opportunity to safely view, and participate in activities and programs that raise the awareness of wildlife.

[Soil Education](#) Erosion, water cycle, formation of soil, soil classifications and more.

[Teacher Resources](#)

## **The Natural Source Northern State University**

[South Dakota and its Habitats](#) Information about South Dakota habitats, including wetlands, forests and prairies.