

LOCAL
HABITAT SURVEY
and

ANIMAL RESEARCH



Hitchcock Center for the Environment
HOMESCHOOL FALL 2009

Studying Our Local Habitats and Their Inhabitants

In the fall of 2009, Colleen Kelley's Homeschool embarked on a study of their local habitats: garden, pond, river, wetland, soil, field, rotting log, and forest.

As part of this study, they each chose an animal to investigate further. First they made drawings of their animal and through a process of peer critique, refined their drawings. The drawings were transferred to water color paper and they created a painting of the animal. They also created a clay sculpture of their animal. Then they researched the adaptations which allow this animal to live in its habitat. This book is the culmination of these efforts.



Painting



Sculpting





Alexander
HABITAT SURVEY DATA SHEET

NAME OF HABITAT River DATE 12-23-2009

Sky conditions:	Wind conditions:	Temperature:	Soil conditions:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> sunny	<input type="checkbox"/> no wind	<input type="checkbox"/> hot	<input type="checkbox"/> dry
<input type="checkbox"/> partly cloudy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> breezy	<input type="checkbox"/> warm	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> moist
<input type="checkbox"/> cloudy	<input type="checkbox"/> windy	<input type="checkbox"/> cool	<input type="checkbox"/> wet
		<input type="checkbox"/> cold	<input type="checkbox"/> frozen

HERON
 DRAGONFLY NYMPH
 STONE FLY
 2 FISH WATERBOAT MAN
 1 ISOPOD CRAYFISH
 WHEELY
 2 BABY PILL CLAM
 7 Damselfly
 more than 10 Waterstriders



GARDEN HABITAT

CONDITIONS: Sunny, breezy , warm and dry

Garter snake

Bee fly

Red ant

Slugs

Pillbugs

Ants

Baby garter snake

Spiders

Grasshopper

Snails

crane fly

AMBUSH BUG



- * It is camouflaged and will hide to surprise its prey
- * It has large forelegs to capture prey
- * It can capture prey ten times as large as it is!

Aiden

MONARCH BUTTERFLY



- * It eats milkweed as a caterpillar and nectar as a butterfly
- * It tastes bad to birds so protects them from its predators
- * It migrates in the winter to Mexico to find warmth and food



FOREST HABITAT

Squirrel nests
Wood pecker holes
Insects
People
Moss
Ferns
Baby maple trees
Poison ivy
Logs
Trees
Roots

Berries
Big leaves
Rotting trees/logs
Pine cones
Mushrooms
Forts
Grass
Fungus
Vines
lichen

WHITE TAIL DEER FAWN



- * They have white spots and a brown coat to make them blend in their habitat.
- * They have great hearing to keep them out of danger.
- * They are born without a scent to keep them safe from predators

Sylvie Grace

EASTERN CHIPMUNK



- * They gather food in their cheek pouches to store for the winter.
- * They don't hibernate- it will fall asleep for a few days and wake up.
- * To keep from getting cold they will put grass or snow over their hole.

Sophie



FIELD HABITAT

CONDITIONS: partly cloudy, no wind, cool, dry

107 grasshoppers

49 spiders

5 crickets

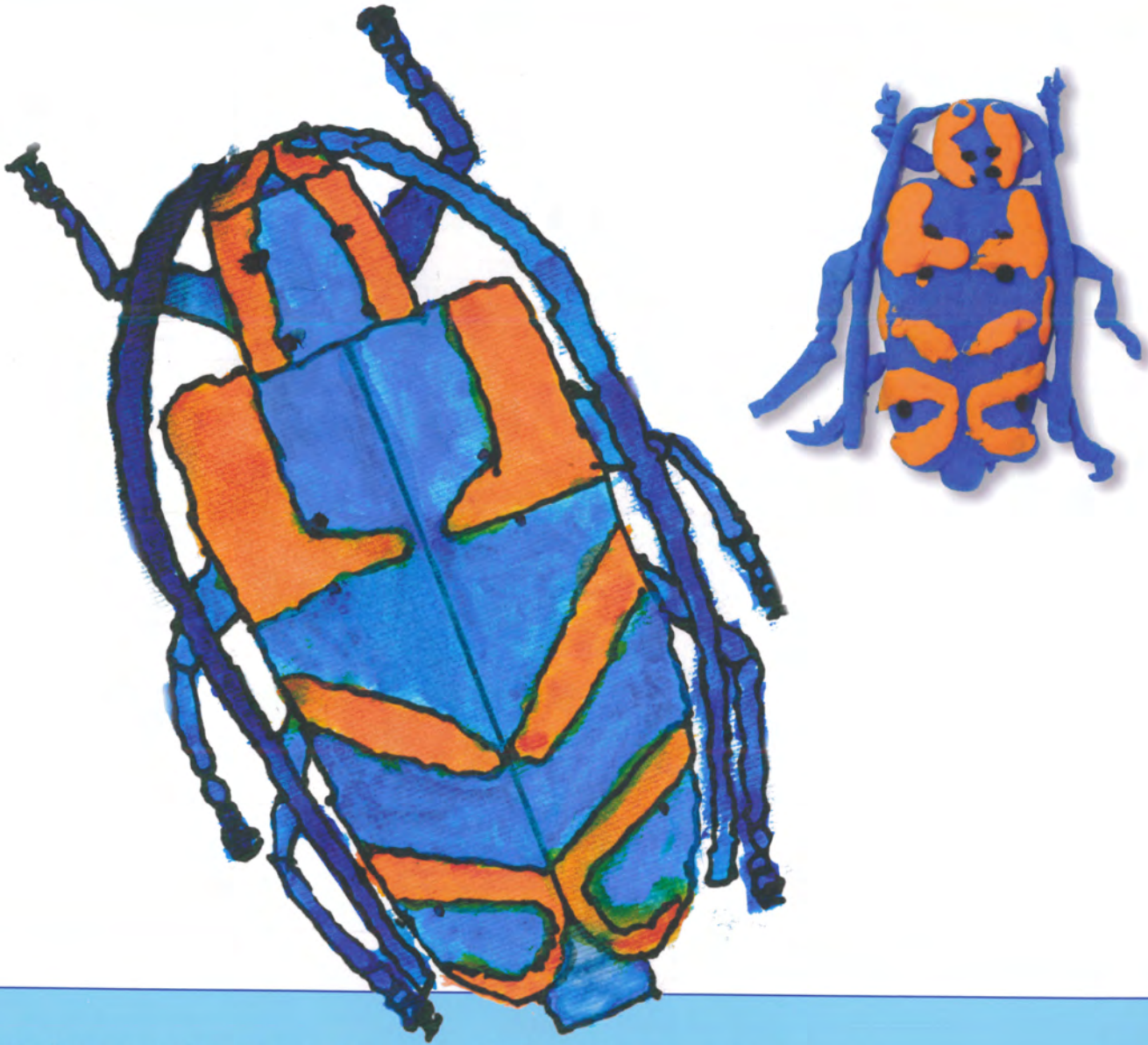
4 leaf hoppers

2 gnats

Many snowfleas (springtails)

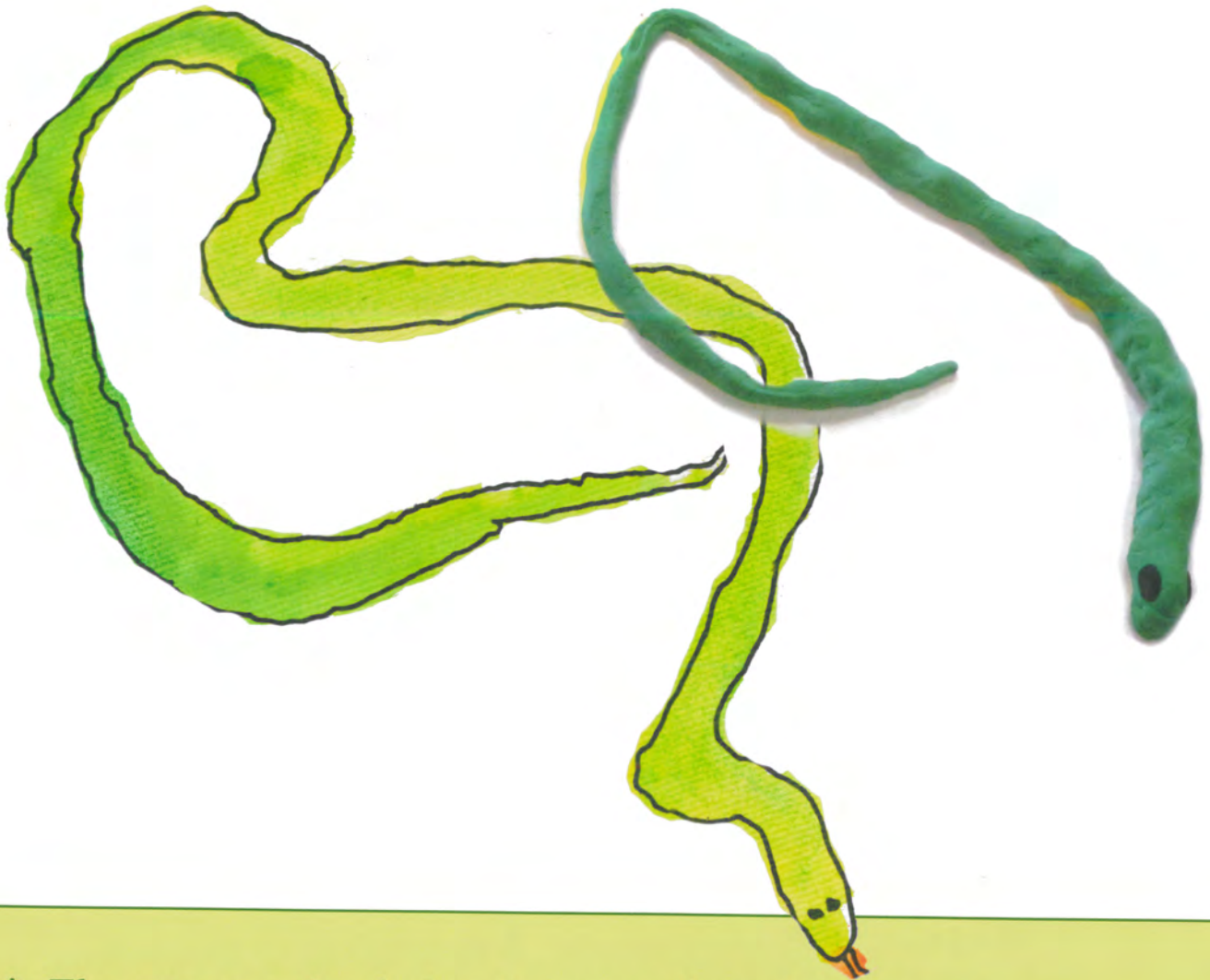
4 true bugs

ELM BORER



- * Long antennae to smell and feel their environment
- * Lay their eggs in cracks of stressed trees at night- common in the city
- * Adults eat leaves of American Elm and Slippery Elm and the larva eat sapwood

SMOOTH GREEN SNAKE



- * The green color helps it camouflage in the grass
- * It can move quickly and escape from predators
- * The mother snake keeps her eggs inside until the babies are almost ready to hatch. Once she lays the eggs they hatch in 4-30 days.

Henry



POND HABITAT

CONDITIONS: cloudy, breezy, cool, wet

8 frogs

1 froglet

35 tadpoles

20 water snails

55 freshwater clams

3 damselfly nymphs

Water bug

2 spiders

4 backswimmers

5 water boatman

7 creeping water bugs

2 grasshoppers

1 leech

MILK SNAKE



- * They are nocturnal and they usually eat at night- during the day they are usually under rocks, in barns, or under logs
- * They are skinny and long and can fit in to burrows and nests to eat small animals.
- * They look like rattlesnakes and copperheads and this helps keep predators away

Alexander



RIVER HABITAT

Heron
Dragonfly nymph
Stonefly nymph
2 fish
Waterboatman
Isopods
Crayfish
Whirligig beetle

MOOSE



- * They have antlers that help them hear by bringing in vibrations to their ears.
- * They have nostrils that close under the water so that they can put their head under water to find food.
- * They have long legs so that they can walk in deep water and snow.

RIVER OTTER



- * They have webbed feet and skinny bodies to help them swim fast in the water
- * They can hold their breath for a long time so they can swim underwater to catch fish to eat.
- * They have waterproof coats so their skin doesn't get wet

Toby



ROTTING LOG HABITAT

CONDITIONS: sunny, breezy, cool, moist

5 spiders

4 red backed salamanders

12 click beetles

Many pillbugs

Many mushrooms

1 red eft salamander

1 fly

2 slugs

3 beetle larva

2 hibernating wasps

6 millipedes

1 crane fly

1 ant

ROBIN



- * The robin is one of the first birds to lay eggs in the Spring
- * It hunts for food with its eyes, not by hearing.
- * It eats grasshoppers, grubs, caterpillars, fruits and berries, but it mostly feeds its babies worms because they are soft.



WETLAND HABITAT

CONDITIONS: cloudy, breezy, cool and moist

Dragonfly

Frogs

Moss

Fungus

Cattails

Tall grass

Skunk cabbage

Mud

snails

ladybug

vole

SPOTTED TURTLE



- * This turtle will eat anything it can catch - snails, worms, slugs, spiders and fish
- * It can draw in to its shell and be protected from predators
- * It has claws for digging in to the soil

John



SOIL HABITAT

CONDITIONS: partly cloudy, breezy, cool, moist soil (50 degrees)

Pine cones
2 spiders
Roots
Grubs
Leaves
Millipede
Worm

Sticks
Living plant
Nematode (little white worm)
Clay
Beetle
Seeds

The Animals



