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RP Circle - Habitat Fragmentation and Species Survival

Center for Urban Resilience

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MODULE 6 LESSON 8

Welcome to Lesson 8: Habitat Fragmentation and Species Survival

Introduce the Circle Process:

Read the suggested script and the guidelines to the group.

SUGGESTED SCRIPT

This year, we are trying something a little different at _____ (school name). We are holding Community Building Circles to give us the opportunity to get to know each other better. This allows us to talk about things that are important such as celebrations, current events, ways to problem-solve, and anything else that's meaningful to us. This is our time to talk with one another.

GUIDELINES

Since we want to give everyone a chance to be heard, we can use this talking piece. (Explain its significance, if any.) The person holding the talking piece gets to speak and everyone else gets to listen. Before we begin, let's review a few guidelines. We ask that everyone:

- **Respect the talking piece.**
- **Speak from the heart (share only your own experiences and not those of others).**
- **Listen from the heart (be open and non judgmental).**
- **Trust you will know what to say (no need to rehearse).**
- **Say "just enough" (be considerate of the time when sharing).**

Is there anything missing from this list that we need to add?

One way to show you agree with something that someone says without saying a word is by making a hand sign. The hearing-impaired community uses a sign like this (demonstrate jazz hands). Or we can create our own silent hand-signal.

Are these guidelines something we can all agree to?

OPENING QUESTION

Pick one question from the list below. Offer the prompt to the group and start by answering the prompt yourself. Pass the talking piece to the next person.

- *"Where did your first name come from? Are you named after anyone?" OR*
- *"Use one word to describe how you are feeling right now." OR*
- *"What's your favorite food?"*

CURRICULUM-RELATED QUESTION

Explain that, "What we enjoy doing often reflects something about what we value. Make a list of 5 things they enjoy doing outdoors. The list you created will be used later during part of the class so hang on to your list for later use."

Offer the prompt to the group and start by answering the question yourself. Pass the talking piece to the next person.

- *“When you think of spending time outdoors, what do you really enjoy doing? Do you like to play a sport or find a shady spot to sit and talk with a friend? Do you like being surrounded by flowers, birds or other plants?”*

CLOSING

Thank the students for sharing their responses and feel free to ask questions or make observations about any commonalities. You can mention that, “Habitats that are less fragmented and have greater connectivity are more likely to result in species survival.” Expound on this sentiment, if possible.

Now ask the students to return to their work stations and start your lesson.