

Wildlife Crossing



The world’s largest wildlife bridge will open in California next month.

LEXILE: 1060L

SOCIAL STUDIES (NCSS) STANDARD: People, Places, and Environments

COMMON CORE (CCSS) STANDARDS: RI.6-8.1, RI.6-8.3, RI.6-8.7, SL.6-8.4

ENGAGE THE READER

Start the lesson by showing students an animal-crossing sign. Ask them what the purpose of the sign is. Have they seen one before? If so, do they remember where? Have students talk with a partner about whether the signs are effective. Ask them to discuss other ways in which people can help protect animals from cars.

QUESTIONS FOR CLOSE READING AND DISCUSSION

- What’s the purpose of a wildlife crossing? How will it benefit animal populations?
- What evidence suggests that animals will use the wildlife crossing as planned?
- Do you think this is a good solution to the problem? What do you think the challenges are?

EXTEND LEARNING

Bring the students back together and talk about the final discussion question. Ask why wildlife bridges aren’t built over all roads. Then explain that some areas are in more need than others. Ask students to think about the main roadways near where they live. Have a discussion about whether the roadway(s) cut through habitats, and what animals might be living in those areas. Do students think drivers in their area are at a high risk of wildlife collisions? As a class, look at the data from State Farm at ti.me/AnimalCollisionData. Talk about which states are high-risk and what factors influence this.

Point out that even in low-risk states such as California, some areas are more dangerous for animals and drivers than others. Have students identify somewhere in your area that might benefit from a wildlife crossing. You might use Google Maps to survey high-traffic roads, specifically those that cut through a habitat. If time permits, have groups create a model of a wildlife bridge that could be built in that area.

COVER STORY QUIZ + ANSWER KEY

Make a copy of the Google Form quiz for “Wildlife Crossing” [here](#).

- 1. B** (RI.1) **2. D** (RI.3) **3. C** (RI.8) **4. A** (RI.2) **5. B** (RI.4)
6. C (RI.7) **7. Answers will vary.** (W.1)