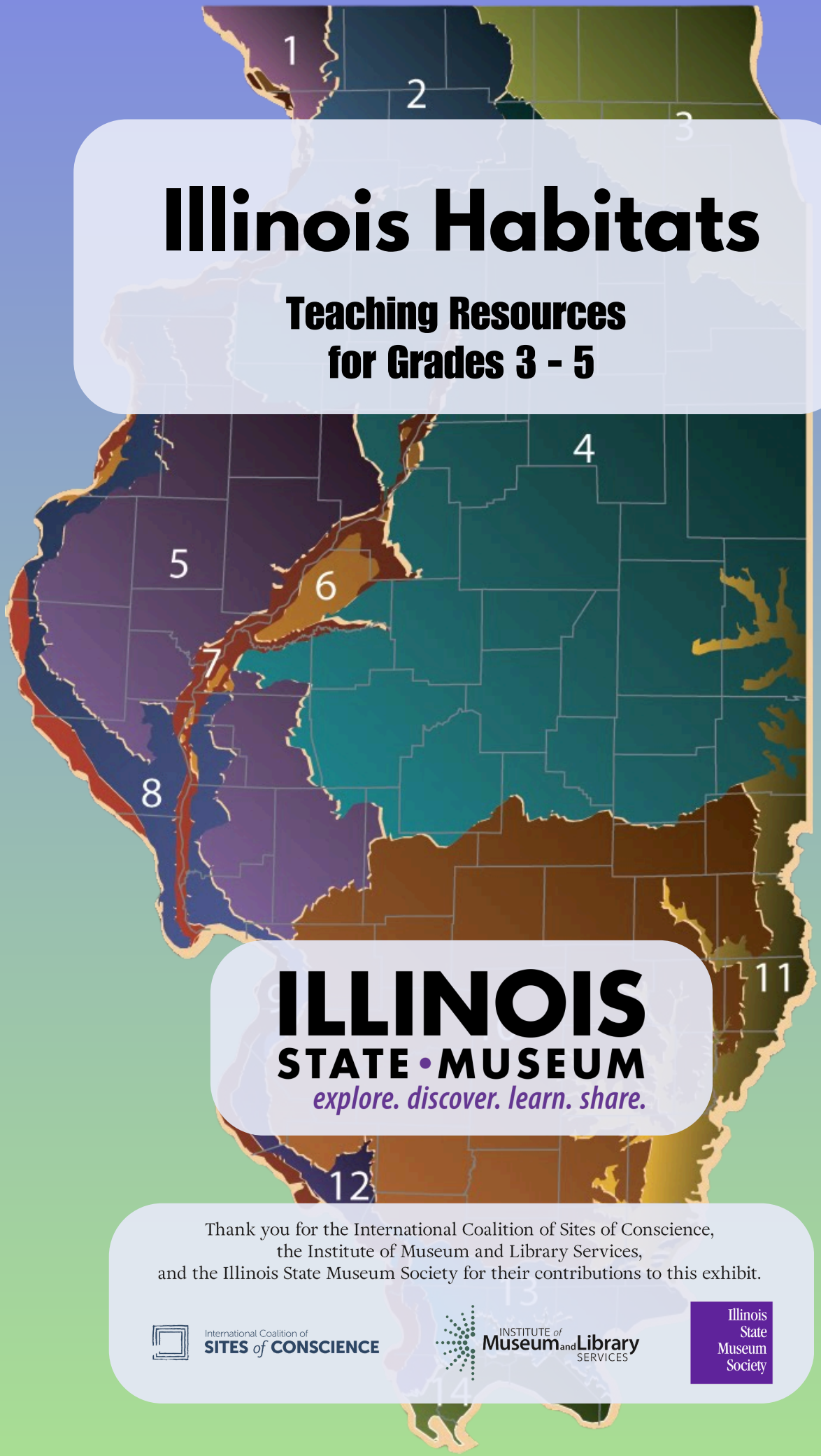
Illinois Habitats

Teaching Resources for Grades 3 - 5



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Thank you for the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and the Illinois State Museum Society for their contributions to this exhibit.

International Coalition of SITES of CONSCIENCE

INSTITUTE of Museum and Library SERVICES

Illinois State Museum Society



Introduction

Most people take their surroundings for granted. Illinois, for example, is often thought of as a state with flat geographic features and crops (largely corn and soy) as far as the eye can see. However, closer examination reveals that diversity is everywhere, and that the ordinary is often more extraordinary than we anticipate.

Far from being a state dominated by cornfields and agriculture, Illinois has a diverse assemblage of environments and habitats - 14 broad categories, with 33 sections within (though we won't get too much into the latter!). These divisions are categorized based on soil type, climate, landscapes, bedrock, vegetation, and wildlife. Some of these divisions contain endemic species, unique to that specific area.

This resource guide will introduce you and your students to some of the most important Illinois habitats, as well as the way natural resource managers have categorized our state's landscapes. Included as well are some resources to help *you* explore Illinois' diverse environments!



Key Themes

- **Ecology**
- **Connection to land**
- **Biological Diversity**

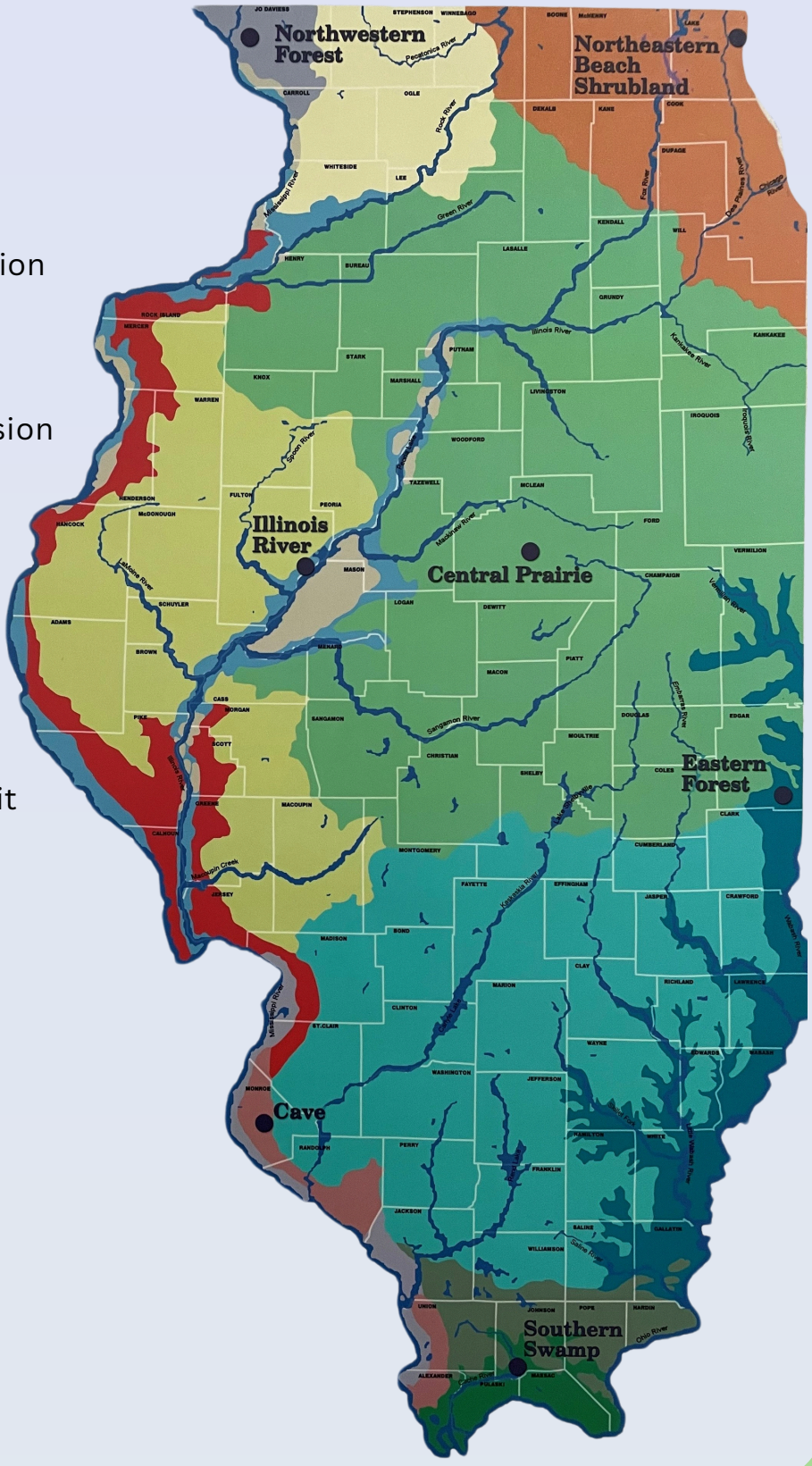
Next Generation Science Standards:

- **2-LS2-1 Ecosystems: Interactions, Energy, and Dynamics:** Plan and conduct an investigation to determine if plants need sunlight and water to grow. (Grade: K-2, 2)
- **4-ESS3-1 Earth and Human Activity:** Obtain and combine information to describe that energy and fuels are derived from natural resources and their uses affect the environment. (Grade: 3-5, 4)
- **5-ESS3-1 Earth and Human Activity**: Obtain and combine information about ways individual communities use science ideas to protect the Earth's resources and environment. (Grade: 3-5, 5)

The Natural Divisions of Illinois

Scientists recognize 14 natural divisions in Illinois
The divisions are based on differences in topography, soil, bedrock, glacial history, plants, and animals.

- Wisconsin Driftless Division
- Rock River Hill Country Division
- Northeastern Morainal Division
- Grand Prairie Division
- Upper Mississippi River and Illinois River Bottomlands Division
- Illinois River and Mississippi River Sand Areas Division
- Western Forest-Prairie Division
- Middle Mississippi Border Division
- Southern Till Plain Division
- Wabash Border Division
- Ozark Division
- Lower Mississippi River Bottomlands Division
- Shawnee Hills Division
- Coastal Plain Division
- Approximate Location of Dioramas in the *Changes* Exhibit (visit ISM-Springfield for more!)



ISM Video Resource:
Exploring Illinois Habitats in the Museum

Click on the image below to open the video!



ISM Video Resource:
Illinois Habitat: Urban

Click on the image below to open the video!



ISM Video Resource:
Illinois Habitat: Prairie

Click on the image below to open the video!



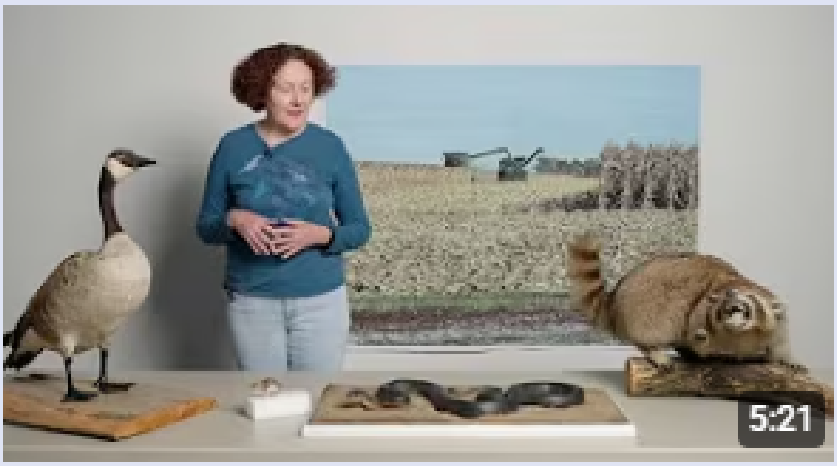
ISM Video Resource:
Illinois Habitat: Forest

Click on the image below to open the video!



ISM Video Resource:
Illinois Habitat: Farmland

Click on the image below to open the video!



ISM Video Resource:
Illinois Habitat: Caves

Click on the image below to open the video!



More Resources:

- Story Map of Illinois Wildlife Divisions, from UIUC
- Illinois Natural Divisions, by Jonathan Schwegman
- Life on the Edge: Geologic Influences on Habitats
- Habitat Information from IDNR
- Educator Workshops at Emiquon Nature Preserve

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