



Greetings,

We are starting a new science unit in class called *How Can We Protect Animals When their Habitat Changes?* The unit leads up to a design challenge. Your child will solve the problem of salamanders being hit by cars on a new road. Your child's at-home and out-of-school experiences can play an essential role in supporting the development of their own and their classmates' understanding of how the world works. As I work on planning the lessons, I would appreciate some ideas about how your child may have already experienced our new topic. Your feedback will help me incorporate their experiences into the unit.

If you can, please respond to as many of the following questions as you are comfortable answering. Rest assured that your child does not have to have relevant previous experiences to be successful with the unit.

1. Is your child familiar with where they might find roly-polies or pill bugs?
2. Is your child familiar with fossils or any extinct animals like trilobites?
3. Is your child familiar with the ways land development impacts animals?

In addition to sharing your child's experiences with me, I encourage you to discuss topics related to this science unit with your child. This can help them make sense of what they are doing in school. Here are some examples of questions to ask at home:

1. Are you designing a habitat for roly-polies? Tell me about your design. Why did you design it like that?
2. Did you see or handle any strange rocks in school? What do you think they are, and why do you think that?
3. Did you see any pictures of wild animals? Where were they, and do you think they could live where we do?

You can learn more about this science unit at [ScienceEducation.si.edu/changing-habitats-phenomenon](https://ScienceEducation.si.edu/changing-habitats-phenomenon). Please feel free to ask me questions. I want to work with you to make sure your child gets the most out of this unit.

Thank you.