

# Human Habitat



# The Human Habitat

People live in houses and buildings to be comfortable and safe. We live together in towns and cities. We build roads to drive our cars from place to place. We build human habitats in nature's habitats.

### Could you survive in the wild?

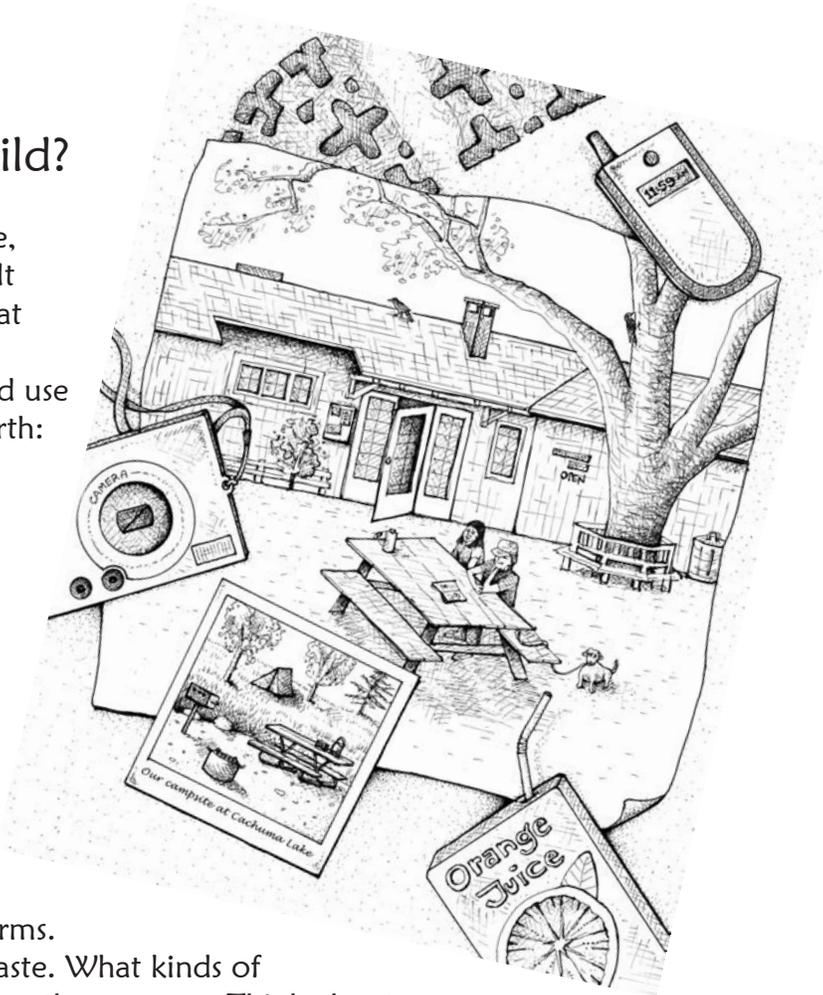
Could you REALLY survive with no house, kitchen, buildings, stores, cars, or roads? It would be tough to do! People are good at discovering ways make our lives more comfortable, easy, and fun. We build and use things from materials we get from the earth: soil, rocks and metals, wood and other plants, animals, water, fossil fuels, gases, and more.

### The human habitats we build make changes in the natural habitat.

We cover the ground and remove plants and trees to make room for our houses, buildings, roads, factories, and farms. We also change the planet by creating waste. What kinds of waste do we create? Think about things we throw away. Think about what comes out the back end of our cars and factories. Think about trash that can litter the outdoors. Think about what we flush down the toilet!

### Look around. You see examples of human-made habitats nearly everywhere.

Can you see ways we have changed the natural habitat? Let's use Earth's natural riches carefully and plan our habitats wisely. We stay healthy when Earth is healthy. "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle!" is a way of life we can live with.



Human Habitat subjects in this book:

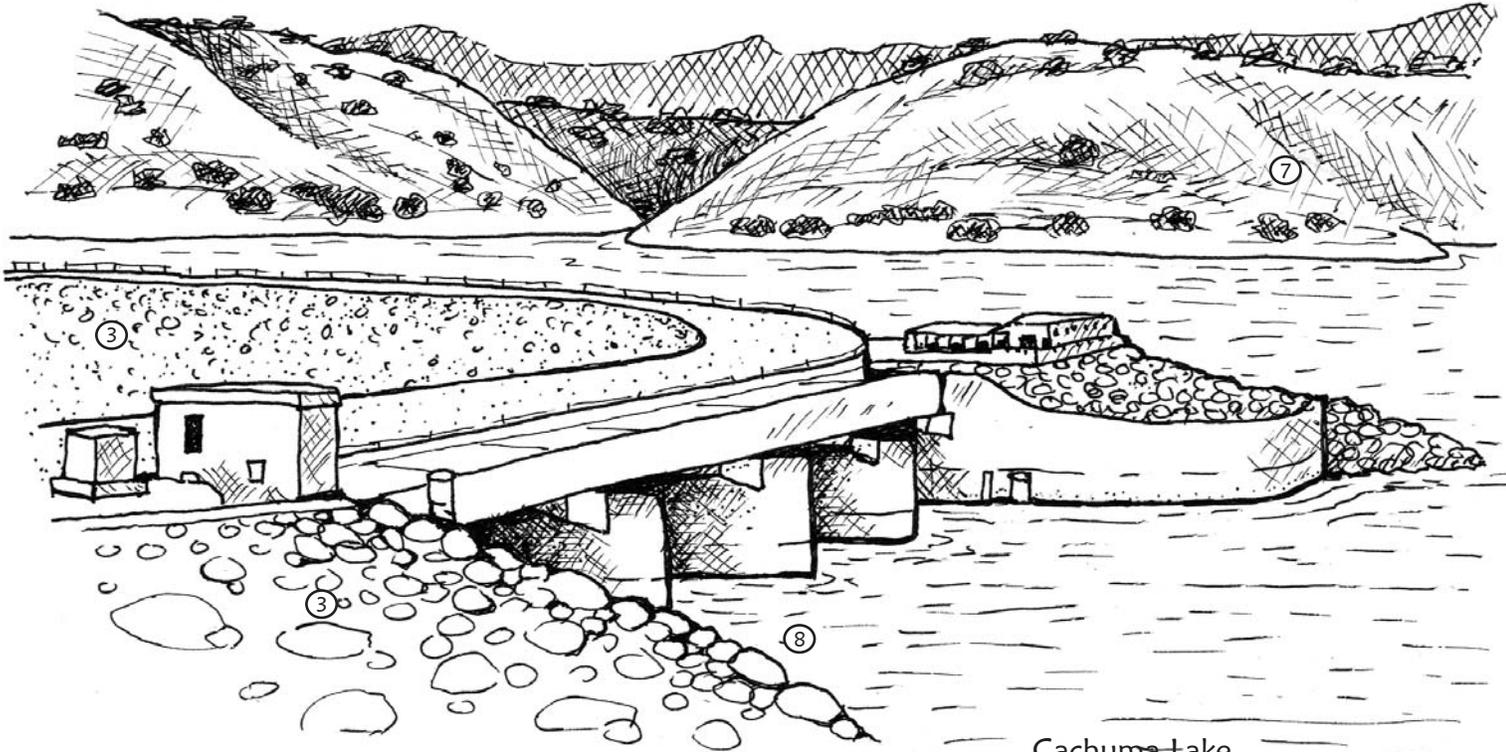
- Bradbury Dam
- Campgrounds
- Crows

Habitat:  
Human

## Dam & Lake

Bradbury Dam

- Built 1950 to 1953
- Dam Type: Earth and rock
- Height: 206 feet
- Length: 2975 feet
- Age: Over 50 years old.



## Bradbury Dam and Cachuma Lake

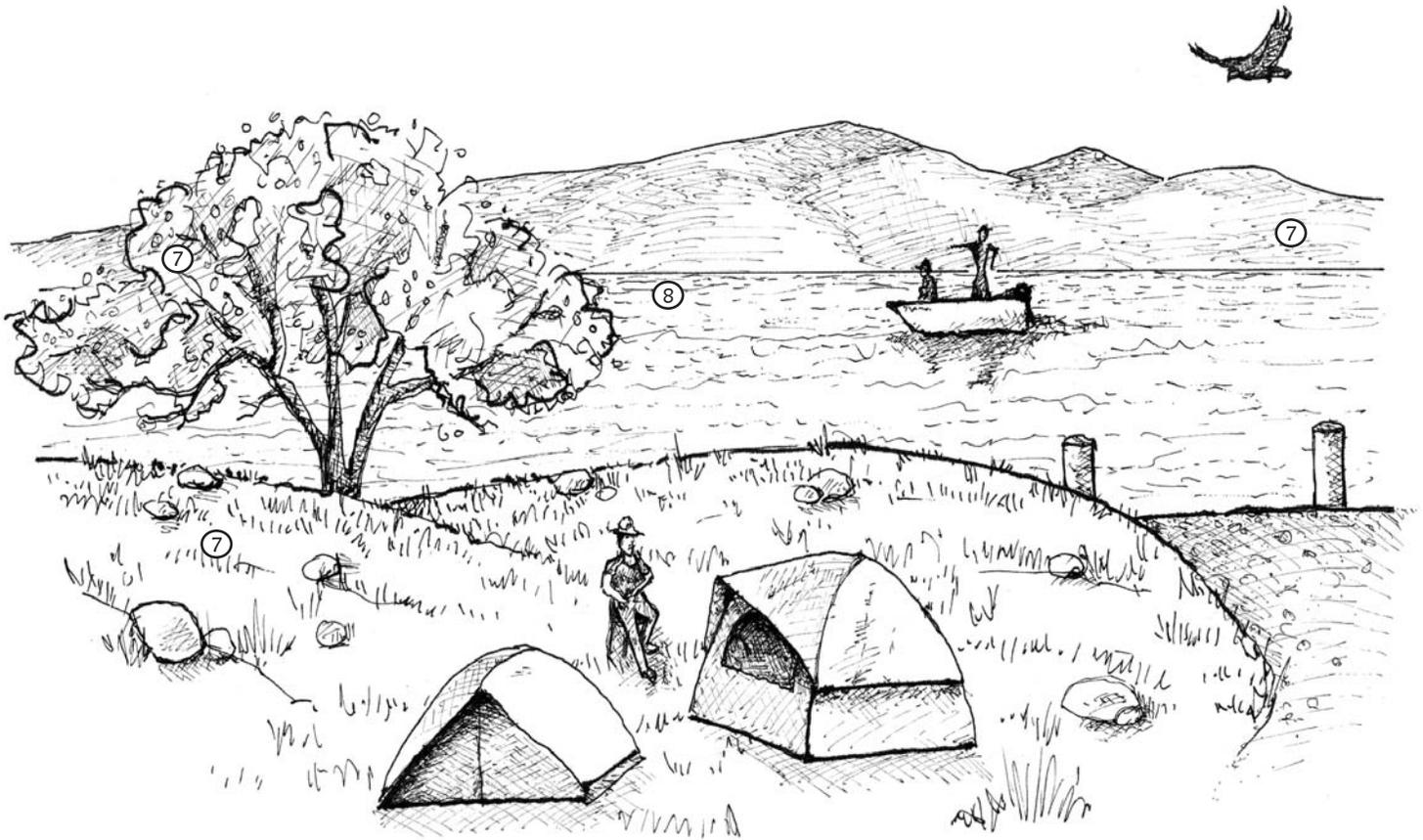
Bradbury Dam was built on the Santa Ynez River. A dam is like a wall. It keeps the water in Cachuma Lake. We use the water for our homes and to grow food.

All life depends on water. Without it, people could not survive. Bradbury Dam was built so we could store and use the water from the Santa Ynez River. We store it to have a big supply. Cachuma Lake has enough water to last the towns in Santa Barbara County many years. However, building a dam across a river locks the path of fish and animals that migrate up and down the river. How can we make sure people get enough water, and also make sure wildlife gets what it needs, too?

Cachuma Lake

- First filled in 1958
- Length: 7 miles long
- Area: 3000 acres
- Shoreline 42 miles
- Depth: 150 feet
- Capacity: 188,000 acre feet (about enough water to fill 94,000 swimming pools!)

# Habitat: Human and Natural



## The Campground

A campground is a place where you and your families can live outside. You can play outside all day and sleep in a tent at night.

Camping is living in-between natural and human habitats. You can have comforts of home and be closer to nature at the same time. Watch birds instead of TV. Hang out fishing instead of at the mall. Play games with your family instead of on a computer. Ride your bike on a trail instead of a street. Watch for raccoons and owls at night; and hawks and squirrels by day. Feel the weather change, see the stars at night, build a camp fire, roast hot dogs, listen for critters. All year long families come camping at Cachuma Lake to enjoy living outside.

**Remember!**

**Take only memories, leave only footprints.**

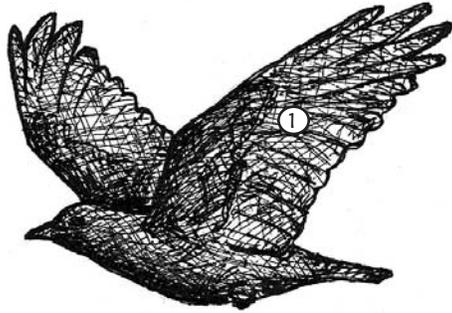
### Daytime Things to Do:

- Take a hike, ride a bike
- Nature walk
- Junior Rangers
- Look for animals, tracks & scat
- Play catch or hide-and-seek
- Skip stones
- Go fishing
- Sing-alongs
- Scavenger hunt
- Visit Neal Taylor Nature Center
- Water-balloon toss & cleanup
- Service to nature: litter pickup

### Nighttime Things to Do:

- Star gazing
- Build a campfire
- Roast marshmallows
- Watch for bats
- Night nature walk
- Ghost stories
- Card and board games
- Listen for night animal sounds
- Put a flashlight on a white sheet and watch insects

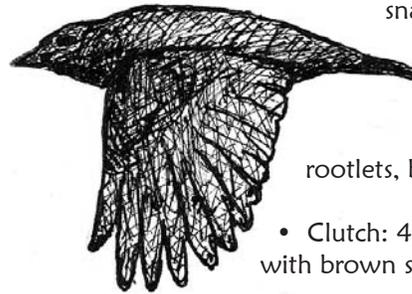
Habitat:  
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## Crow Facts



- Overall: One of the most familiar and abundant, birds in North America
- Highly intelligent; can solve problems and use tools
- Size: Wingspan, 33-39 inches; length, 16-21 inches
- Foods: seeds, garbage, acorns, insects, mice, fruit, small birds, eggs, carrion, frogs, snakes, and human food
- Nest: Bowl of sticks lined with feathers, grass, and rootlets, built in a tree
- Clutch: 4 to 5 light green eggs, with brown spots
- Voice: "Caw! Caw! Caw!" is most familiar



## American Crow

*Corvus branchynchos*

Crows are black birds that are very smart. They can live in many different kinds of places. You can see them in the wild, or in towns, cities, on farms, or even at school.

Crows do very well living around humans. When humans are nearby it keeps away many animals that might prey on crows, such as hawks or owls. Humans also help crows thrive because where people are, there's food not far! Humans throw away a lot of food. Why go look for food when it's right there in the garbage can? Crows even find food that campers leave sitting out on their picnic tables. They're so smart, they can open packages and boxes. Crows have a wide diet; they can eat lots of different kinds of foods. This is why where humans go, there goes the crow!

# Human Habitat: Think About It

## Human Habitat

- When new houses and towns are built, what do you think happens to the local wildlife that lived in that area?
- The population of people on the planet is growing and growing. What can we do to preserve areas for wildlife?
- Can you think of ways to build human habitats so that wildlife still has wild places to live?

## Bradbury Dam

- What would happen to the lake level if there were no rain for a year? Five years?
- What do you think happens when the lake is full and more rain is coming?
- In some towns, dams are being taken down. Why would they do that? How would it change the flow of water?
- Can you think of two ways YOU can conserve water?

## Campground

- Have you ever been camping? Can you think of five things you do or need every day, and how you would replace or use those things on a camping trip.

Here are some examples:

Where would you go to brush your teeth?

Where would you eat dinner?

What would you do after the sun went down?

Where would the dog sleep?

Where would you sleep, and would you be comfortable?

## American Crow

- Do you think there might be more crows in a wilderness area, or at a picnic area?
- Do you think human garbage is good food for crows to eat? Why?
- What can crows eat in the oak woodland besides garbage?
- Large crow populations can be a threat to other wild birds. Can you think of why this might be?