

The United States – Mexico Border Fence



a portion of the fence

The United States is in the process of building almost 700 miles of fence along the boundaries of California, Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas to prevent illegal immigrants from Mexico from entering the United States. Many animals and plants like the ocelot, Mexican jaguars, black bears, hummingbirds, and the endangered Sonoran pronghorn antelope live on both sides of the border.



The armadillo is known for its leathery armor.



Over 20 hummingbird species live in both the U.S. and Mexico



Black bear cub



The Sonoran Pronghorn runs up to 60 mph and is the fastest North American land animal



Ocelots found mostly in Central and South America are also found in Texas.

a) Animals don't understand why people build fences, but yet their lives are affected. In what ways are their habitat and lives affected?

Their habitat is fragmented which might prevent mating or prevent them from using all the parts of the habitat that they need to survive.

b) Which animal do you predict will be least affected by the fence? Why?

The hummingbirds, because they can fly.

c) Propose a solution to prevent the fence from harming wildlife habitat.

Build overpasses or underpasses for wildlife (although people might be able to pass through them too. Don't build the fence.

d) How would you test whether the fence harms wildlife? Think back to the bighorn sheep example.

I would census different animals before the fence is built and census them afterwards to see if their population has declined. I could also do a genetic analysis of a population before the fence is built and then analyze the population after the fence is built to see if it has affected breeding (this would be a very long term study).

e) Look at the map above and record two sites between which a new fence is NOT being built.

No fence will be built between Douglas and Columbia, El Paso and Del Rio, and Eagle Pass and Laredo.