



Animals and Habitats II

What Is a Habitat?

Scientific Concept: Animal Habitats

- A *habitat* is where an animal lives. An animal can find the food, water, and shelter it needs to *survive* and stay safe in its *habitat*.
- Animal *habitats* are specific to each animal. They are just right for the animals that live there.
- Animal bodies have *adaptations* to help them *survive* in their *habitat*.
- There are *habitats* in all kinds of environments, including the arctic tundra, forests, grasslands, oceans, mountains, deserts, and freshwater lakes and rivers.

Key Vocabulary

- habitat
- adaptations
- survive

Lesson Options: Select lesson elements to create a single-day or multiday lesson.

Lesson Elements

Digital Playlist: Generally, children will complete the Digital Playlist first, then follow up with some or all of the activities described below. As you select and do those activities with your child, you may wish to reassign some or all of the digital activities for additional practice.

Explore Activity: This follow-up is designed to be used closely with the Digital Playlist to help your child understand the topic.

Dig Deeper Activity: This offline activity provides an additional learning experience with the same topic.

Extend Activity: This offline activity extends the child's understanding and application of the same topic.

Explore Activity

1. Engage your child in a discussion about animals in their environment. Ask them what kind of animals they see. Give them a chance to share what they know about these animals and where they live. Then, ask your child about animals that they have heard about but don't live near them. Ask: *Why do you not see these animals?*
2. Have your child watch the video *What Is a Habitat?*.
3. Engage your child in a discussion. What did they notice in the video? What did the video make them wonder? How did the information in the video help them learn how animals living in cold *habitats* differ from animals living in hot *habitats*?



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Dig Deeper Activity

Set Up

1. Gather the materials on the list.
2. Discuss the *habitats* shown in the video and talk about examples of others.
3. Tell your child that they will get a chance to create a model of an animal *habitat*.

Procedure

1. Ask your child to choose an animal whose *habitat* they would like to model.
2. Discuss the natural features found in the environment (e.g., water, trees, grass, sand, rocks, hills).
3. Draft a design. For younger children, ask them to tell you how the *habitat* might look while you draw a basic sketch. Older children can sketch a plan for their *habitat*.
4. Glue or tape construction paper to line the inside of the shoebox, creating the *habitat* background.
5. Inside the shoebox, use available craft supplies to create the *habitat*.
6. Place a photo, figure, or drawing of the animal your child selected earlier inside the *habitat*. Now the animal has a new home!
7. Ask your child what makes their *habitat* a good home for their animal.
Sample answer: “The prairie dog will have lots of grass and seeds to eat in the grasslands.”
8. Ask your child how the animal’s body will help it *survive* in its *habitat*.
Sample answer: “The prairie dog will use its very strong legs to do lots of digging in the grasslands.”

Materials

- Empty shoebox
- Construction paper to line the shoebox
- Various craft supplies (e.g., clay, pipe cleaners, colorful paper, markers/ crayons/paint, etc.)
- Animal photos or figures
- Scissors
- Glue or tape



Extend Activity

Push thinking forward: Engage your child in a discussion about how wild animals’ *habitats* differ from common pets’ *habitats* (e.g., dogs). Have them create a poster describing the *habitat* of animals living in the wild and an animal living in a person’s home. Guide them with questions like: *What does the animal eat? Where does it get water? What does the animal’s habitat look like? How does its habitat support it?* Help them make connections with the information that they have learned in the video.

Share your learning: Help your child communicate their learning by sharing the poster they create. Review the video *What Is a Habitat?* as needed.



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MODIFICATIONS

Beginning Learner	Advanced Learner
Before building the model <i>habitat</i> in the Dig Deeper Activity, talk to your child about different things that can make up a <i>habitat</i> (e.g., sand, water, bushes, insects).	Have your child reason with the concepts they have learned. For example, ask: <i>What might happen if an animal was placed in a new habitat? Would they be able to survive? Let's think about a specific animal. What would happen if a polar bear was moved to a hot desert?</i>

Signs of Success and Needs

One sign that your child understands the concepts in the lesson is if they can describe some potential consequences of moving an animal out of its *habitat*.

Your child may not recognize that *habitats* can be indoors, too. When discussing examples of *habitats*, be sure to include examples of indoor features of a house pet's *habitat*.

Our activities are designed to be safe with adult supervision. Please follow directions carefully.