



Home Sweet Habitat

TEACHER RESOURCE



Grade Level: K-4
Subject Areas: Science, Language Arts, Expressive Arts, Environmental Education
Duration: Two 20-minute or one 40-minute session
Group Size: Any
Settings: Indoors
Key Terms: habitat, survival needs, food, water, shelter, space

Objectives

Students will (1) identify their own basic needs

for food, water, shelter and space, (2) generalize that wildlife and other animals have similar basic needs, (3) create a picture showing how a habitat provides humans with what they need to survive and (4) create a similar habitat picture for animals, for side-by-side comparison with humans.

Method

Students draw pictures of human and animal homes, comparing basic needs.

Materials

- Paper
- Pencils, crayons or markers.
- Home Sweet Habitat Scavenger Hunt activity sheet (page 2)

Background

Humans and other animals—including pets, farm animals and wildlife—have some of the same basic needs. Every animals need a home. However, a home is not just a house where people live. An animal's home is called a habitat. An animal's habitat includes food, water, shelter and space. Because animals need the food, water, shelter and space to be available in a way that meets their needs, these things must be available in a suitable arrangement.

A house may be considered shelters for people. People build houses, apartments, trailers, houseboats and other kinds of shelters in which to live. An animal's shelter might be underground, in a bush, in the bark of a tree or in some rocks. Animals need a place to find food and water. They also need enough space in which to live and find the food, water and shelter they need. Home for an animal is more like a neighborhood that has

everything in it that is needed for survival.

Procedure

1. Write the following words on a chalkboard: food, water, shelter, space.
2. Read each word aloud, asking the students to repeat the words.
3. Food and water will be easy concepts for the students to understand. Shelter and space will be more difficult. Ask the students to explain the definitions of shelter and space.
4. Give the students paper, pencils, crayons or markers. Ask the students to draw a picture of where they live, including pictures of where they find food, water, shelter and space.
5. Once the drawings are complete, have the students write the word "habitat" in big letters at the top of their drawings. Discuss the meaning of habitat.
6. Give the students another piece of paper. Ask them to think of an Alaskan animal. Ask the students to draw a picture of their animal in a place where it lives. Make sure they include food, water, shelter and space.
7. Ask the students to talk about their drawings, pointing out the habitat components they have included.
8. Ask the students to write "habitat" in big letters at the top of this drawing as well. Discuss with students how humans and other animals need food, water, shelter and space. They all have similar needs.

Alaska Zoo Extension

While at the Alaska Zoo, complete the "Home Sweet Habitat Scavenger Hunt" worksheet.

Evaluation

1. Choose the elements that wildlife species need to survive: food, water, shelter and space. Explain.
2. Choose the elements people need to survive: food, water, shelter and space. Explain. Write a sentence about what people and wildlife need to survive.



Home Sweet Habitat Scavenger Hunt



An animal's home is called its **habitat**. A habitat contains everything that an animal needs to survive and reproduce. Which Alaska Zoo animals can be found in the habitats listed below?

1. Find an animal at the Alaska Zoo that lives in this type of habitat (remember there may be more than one answer):

- On land _____
- In trees _____
- In lakes or rivers _____
- On land and in water _____
- On sea ice _____
- In the ocean _____
- On a mountain _____
- In a forest _____
- In your backyard or neighborhood _____
- Is solitary _____
- Lives in groups _____

2. What is your habitat? What do you need to live comfortably and survive? What is different about your habitat and the Alaska Zoo animals' habitats? What is similar?


