



Virtual Academy Animal Homes & Habitats

Goal: Students will learn about different kinds of habitats, who lives in them, and how habitats provide animals what they need to survive.

Standards and Correlations:

- *Cognition and General Knowledge Domains*
 - Science Inquiry and Application-Inquiry- C39 to C42 and C44 to C46
 - Earth and Space Science- Explorations of the Natural World- C49
 - Life Science- Explorations of Living Things- C52 to C53 and C55
- *NAEYC Accreditation Criteria (2A.2, 2B.4, 2C.1, 2D.1, 2D.2, 2E.2, 2E.3, 2E.6, 2E.15, 2E.17, 2F.5, 2F.7, 2F.8, 2F.9, 2F.13, 2F.16, 2G.3, 2G.4, 2G.9, 2G.10, 2G.11, 2H.1, 2L.2, 2L.3, 2L.9, 3B.1, 3D.3, 3D.7, 3F.1, 3G.3, 3G.5, 3G.6, 3G.8, 3B.1)*

Overview: A habitat is place where people, animals and plants live. There are many different types of habitats, but today we will focus on three types of habitats that we find nearby: 1) *forests* (land dominated by trees and undergrowth), 2) *wetlands* (land flooded by water with aquatic plants and moist soil), and 3) *meadows* (open land covered by grass and other non-woody plants).

Every habitat provides its residents with everything they need to survive. All living things have four basic needs: food, water, shelter, and space (air). The food animals eat can be plants, animals, or both. Sources of water varies from streams to puddles. Animals use shelter (homes) to sleep, hide and to keep warm or cool. Shelter can range from tree cavities, burrows, shrubby areas, and more based on the animal's need. Each animal requires a certain amount of space in their habitat to find food, water, and shelter. Some animals can live in several different kinds of habitats, while others can live only in one.

Vocabulary:

- **Habitat** - the natural home or environment of an animal, plant, or other organism.
- **Survival** – the ability to live and exist.
- **Needs** – things that are necessary to live.
- **Wants** – things that are nice to have, but not necessary to live.
- **Shelter** – a place that offers protection.

Materials: recorded lesson and lending kit (Habitat Boxes, Habitat magnetic puzzle boards, Animal Home Bingo, Habitat Twister, Need vs. Want Relay Race).

Warm Up: Have students sit in a circle. Begin by showing students the habitat boxes (see below) to spark discussion about the topic “Animal Homes & Habitats”. Showcase each habitat box (forest, wetland, and meadow) one at a time. Pull items from the box one at a time. Allow students to name each item and pass them around the circle. Ask students whether they have ever seen any of the items before. What do they think/feel about the items? Ask students if they, as humans, have a habitat? Is it different from the forest, wetland, and meadow? Explain to the students that they are going to be learning more about habitats, who lives in them, and how habitats provide living things what they need to survive.

Habitat box items:

Forest- tree, raccoon, owl, acorns, toad and nest

Wetland- water, aquatic plant, beaver, duck, mud and fish

Meadow- flower, goldfinch, praying mantis, seeds and sun

Main Activities: Show students the recorded lesson. After the lesson, go over the three points below to reinforce information in the video.

- 1 What is a NEED vs. a WANT? – Review basic needs: food (plastic apple), water (water bottle), space (air) & shelter (picture of a house). A HOME is a form of shelter.
- 2 What is a HOME vs. a HABITAT: HOME: human house (one family) vs. HABITAT: human neighborhood (many families, all the things everyone needs – food from the grocery store, water, houses, schools, space to play, etc.)
- 3 Animal Neighborhoods (Habitats): Forest, Meadow, Wetland
 - FOREST:
 - What kind of animals live in the forest? Deer, squirrels, owls, foxes, mice, skunks, raccoons, coyote, snakes, spiders, birds.
 - Where do they find the food they eat? Each animal eats different things that they can find in their habitat (ex: birds eat seeds and coyotes eat mice)
 - Where do they find their water? Rain, puddles, streams, rivers
 - Where do they find their shelter? Animals make a home out of materials they can find in their environment (ex: owl in a cavity in a hollow tree, bird nest in a tree, coyote den)
 - MEADOW:
 - What kind of animals live in a meadow? Rabbits, deer, mice, butterflies, grasshoppers, snakes, spiders, birds.

- Can we find some of the same animals in two different habitats?
Why? Animals can move around between different habitats to find their food and water, but they make their shelter in just one habitat.
 - Where do they find the food they eat? Birds eat bugs and seeds, bigger insects eat smaller insects or plants, etc.
 - Where do they find their water? Rain, puddles, on grass, in their food.
 - Where do they find their shelter? Animals make a home out of materials they can find in their environment (ex: ants in a burrow).
- WETLAND:
 - What kind of animals live in a wetland? Turtles, fish, eagles, frogs, dragonflies, ducks.
 - Where do they find the food they eat? In and around the water, eagles and turtles eat fish, dragonflies eat smaller bugs like mosquitos, ducks eat plants, etc.
 - Where do they find their water? They live in it!
 - Where do they find their shelter? Animals make a home out of materials they can find in their environment (ex: beavers use sticks and mud to make their lodge).

Wrap Up: Review the basic needs (food, water, shelter, and space), habitats (forest, meadow, and wetland), and some animals that live in each habitat.

Extended Activities: Use items from lending kit.

- Habitat magnetic puzzle boards
- Animal Home Bingo
- Habitat Twister
- Need vs. Want Relay Race
- Sing the habitat song to bring it all back together:

“In the Habitat Where We Live” (to the tune of “Old MacDonald Had a Farm”)

*In the habitat, where we live, up high and down low
We find the things we need to grow, up high and down low
With food right there and water here
Shelter overhead and space to share
In the habitat where we live, up high and down low.*

*Plants and animals need to live, up high and down low
Where food and water and shelters found, up high and down low
In forests here and streams over there
Fields and rivers and backyards where*

They can find some space to spare, up high and down low.