

Independent Projects

Project 1: Habitat! What's that?	
Estimated Time	4 days, 7 activities.
Caregiver Support Option	Extension Activity: Go outdoors with your child to observe the living things around you. Help your child identify an area, or habitat, that provides animals (or insects) food, water, and shelter. Have your child draw a picture of that backyard/neighborhood habitat on the activity sheet. Help your child write where the habitat is located and what can be found in that habitat.
Materials Needed	Pencil, spare paper
Question to Explore	What is a habitat? How is life different in different habitats?
Student Directions	Each activity has different directions. Please read them carefully.

Activity 1: What is a habitat?

In this activity, we will be exploring different habitats. Let's first make sure we know what one is.

Instructions: We are going to read the poem below several times. Afterwards, we'll answer some questions. For your first read, **read the poem out loud** in your best presenter's voice:

Habitats!

Home, sweet home!
Home, sweet animal home!

Birds like to rest
in a twiggy nest.



A brown bear loves it when
he can sleep in his den.

Monkeys swing free
high in a tree!



The tiny frog
lives on a log.

Is *your* home the home
for dogs or cats?



Animals have
many habitats!



Source:
<https://www.chino.k12.ca.us/cms/lib8/CA01902308/Centricity/Domain/831/Habitats%20Poem.pdf>

Great Job! **Read it a second time**, this time **listen carefully for all of the rhyming words**. Read in your **best bird impression voice**.

You're so funny! **Final reading**, this time as you're reading, **seek a definition of habitat**. **Read as if you were a frog**.

<p>In your own words, what is a habitat?</p>	<p>What is your favorite animal?</p> <p>What habitat do they live in?</p> <p>What are some rhyming words for your animal or their habitat?</p>	<p>What is your second favorite animal?</p> <p>What habitat do they live in?</p> <p>What are some rhyming words for your animal or their habitat?</p>
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<p>Add to the poem using each of your two favorite animals and their habitats.</p> <p>In each square to the right, create another line for the poem.</p>		
<p>Read the poem below. Underline all the parts of the poem that explain what it is like where a plant is living.</p> <p>A Spike of Green</p> <p>When I went out The sun was hot, It shone upon My flower pot.</p> <p>And there I saw A spike of green</p> <p>That no one else Had ever seen!</p> <p>On other days The things I see Are mostly old Except for me</p> <p>But this green spike So new and small Had never yet Been seen at all!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">- Barbara Baker</p> <p><small>Source: https://www.theflowerfields.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/FF_plant_poetry.pdf</small></p>	<p>Habitats aren't just for animals! Plants have them too! Draw a picture of a plant growing from the poem. Make sure you add all the details you underlined!</p>	

Activity 2: Adding to my knowledge

Read the passage about different habitats, and respond to the questions that follow.

Habitats, author unknown

A habitat is the place where plants and animals live. There are many kinds of habitats. Some animals eat plants for food; some use plants for shelter and shade. Plants need the animals to make more plants. They live in one place, and they help each other. Some plants and animals live in the **desert**. Deserts are dry and hot. There is only a little water. It is hot in the day and cool at night. Not much moves in the day. It is too hot. **Forests** are wet and damp. The leaves are big and green. Animals can drink a lot of water. Trees can get water for their roots. It is a busy place in the daytime. **Lakes** are another place for animals to live. The lakes have water. Mud and weeds are in the lake. Ducks swim in the water and waddle in the mud. Worms dig in and out of the mud. Weeds grow tall. They blow in the wind. The world has many places for animals to live. The desert, the forest, and the lake are only a few of the places they can live.

*Paraphrased from:

<https://www.teachervision.com/reading-comprehension/science-reading-warm-animal-habitats>

- 1) The word **benefit** means you gain something. Which would be true about plants and animals?
- a) Animals benefit from plants.
 - b) Plants benefit from animals.
 - c) Animals and plants both benefit from each other.
 - d) Animals and plants do NOT benefit from one another.

- 2) What evidence from the text helped you answer question #1?

- 3) True or False? Animals are more likely to be out in the day in the rainforest and the desert.

- 4) What evidence from the text helped you answer question #3?

- 5) Describe the clothing you should wear if visiting each habitat.

a) Desert _____

b) Forest _____

c) Lake _____

Activity 3: Desert vs. Aquatic Habitats

Examine each picture carefully. Then answer the questions about it.



Photo by [Max Di Capua](#) on [Unsplash](#)



Photo by [Tomáš Nožina](#) on [Unsplash](#)

This is a **desert** habitat.

This is an **aquatic** habitat.

What do you already know about deserts?

What do you already know about aquatics?

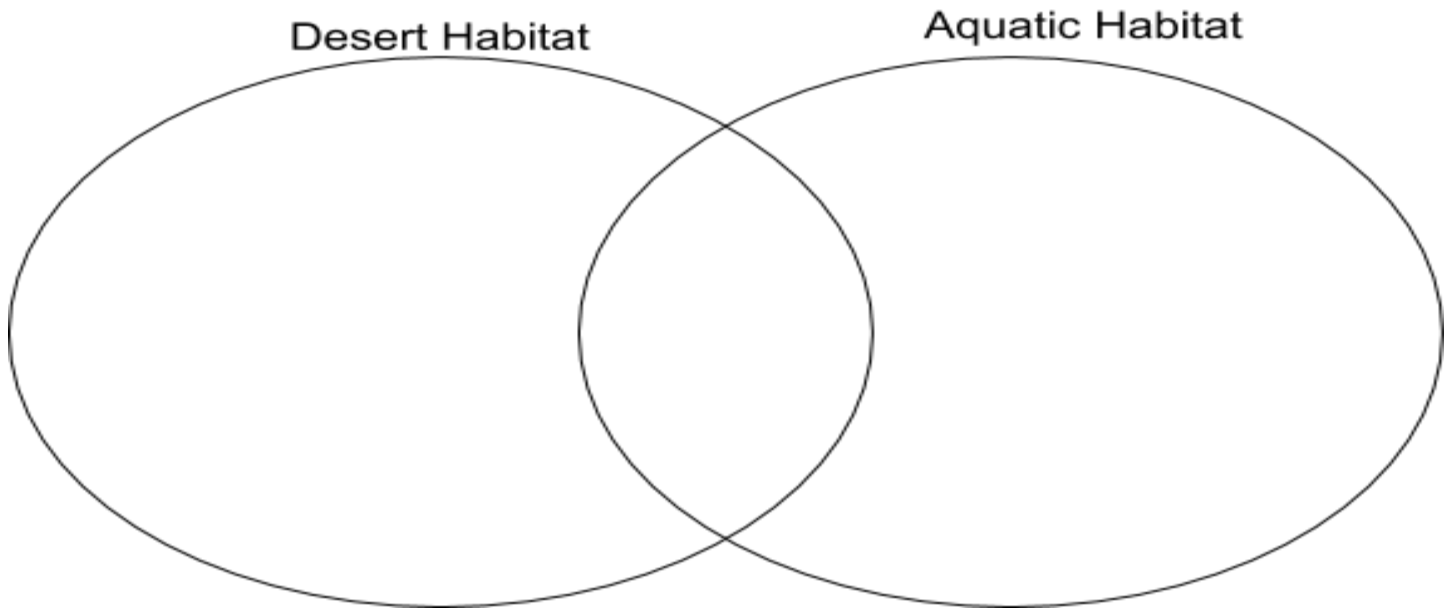
Look closely at the picture of the desert. What observations can you make? What does the ground look like? Describe the plants that live there?

Look closely at the picture of the aquatic habitat. What observations can you make? What does the ground look like? Describe the animals that live there?

What types of animals do you imagine live here?

What types of plants do you imagine living here?

Compare and **contrast** using the Venn Diagram below. On the left, add the details that are different about a desert habitat. On the right, add details that are different about an aquatic habitat. In the middle, add the details that are the same.



Activity 4: Rainforest vs. Grasslands

Examine each picture carefully. Then answer the questions about it.

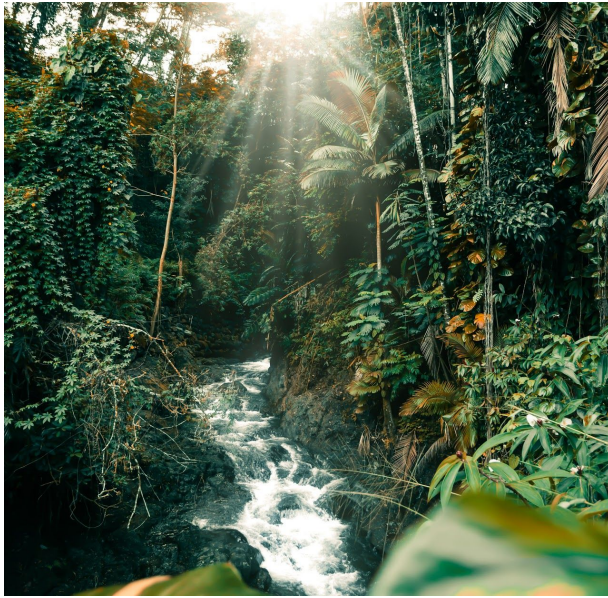


Photo by [Graham Johnson](#) on [Unsplash](#)



Photo by [Marina Kraus](#) on [Unsplash](#)

This is a **rainforest** habitat.

This is a **grasslands** habitat.

What do you already know about rainforests?

What do you already know about grasslands?

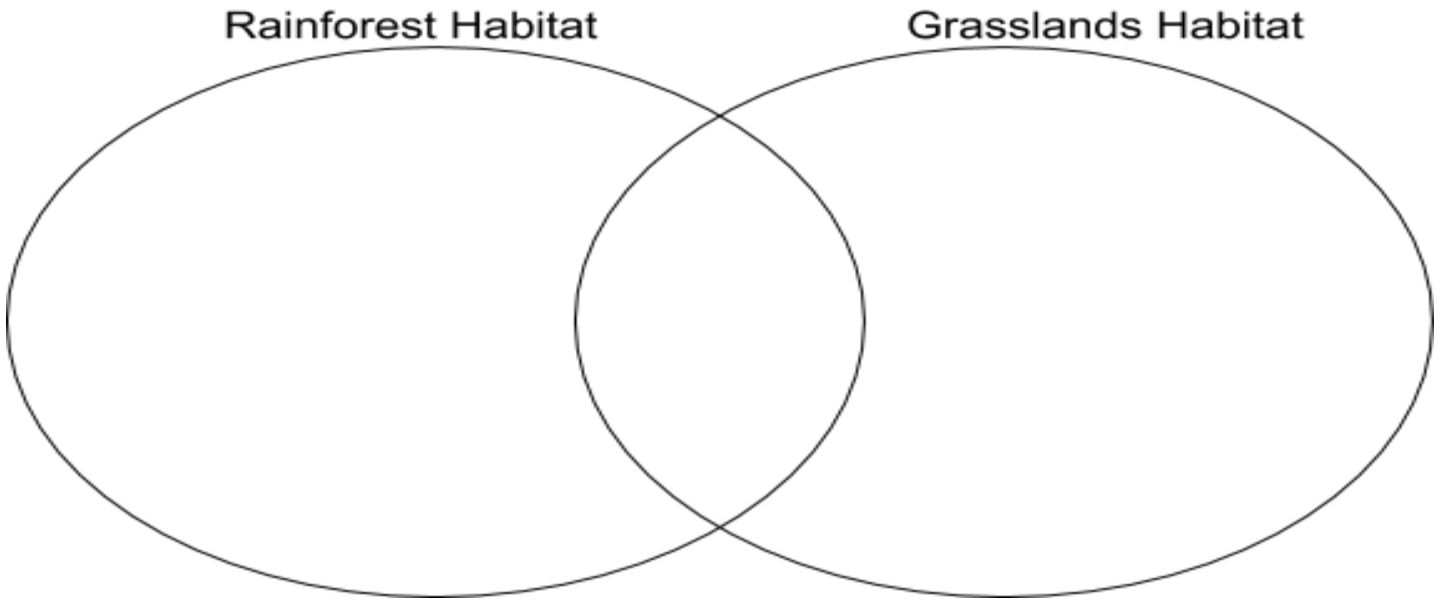
Look closely at the picture of the rainforest. What observations can you make? What does the ground look like? Describe the plants that live there?

Look closely at the picture of the grasslands habitat. What observations can you make? What does the ground look like? Describe the animals that live there?

What types of animals do you imagine live here?






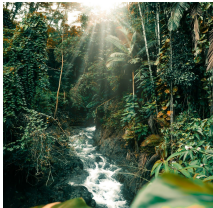


What types of plants do you imagine living here?

Compare and contrast using the Venn Diagram below. On the left, add the details that are different about a rainforest habitat. On the right, add details that are different about an grasslands habitat. In the middle, add the details that are the same.



Activity 5: Match the animal to its habitat.

Read about the characteristics of each animal. Draw a line to match the animal to the habitat that is best for it. Then explain your thinking.

 <p>Photo by Jonathan Mast on Unsplash</p>	<p>I am a bison. I look a lot like a cow and eat like one too. I usually travel with a herd for protection from predators. There are not many places to hide where I live.</p>	 <p>Desert</p>	<p>I picked the _____ to live in the desert. I picked this animal because</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>
 <p>Photo by Wolfgang Hasselmann on Unsplash</p>	<p>I am a scorpion. I am cold-blooded and need heat from the sun to survive. I have 8 legs and use my front pinchers to eat. I also use my tail stinger for both food and protection.</p>	 <p>Grasslands</p>	<p>I picked the _____ to live in the grasslands. I picked this animal because</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>
 <p>Photo by Gaetano Cessati on Unsplash</p>	<p>I am a crocodile. I mostly live in the water but can walk on land. I eat only other animals and can hold my breath underwater for a long time.</p>	 <p>Rainforest</p>	<p>I picked the _____ to live in the rainforest. I picked this animal because</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>
 <p>Photo by Nick & Djalila on Unsplash</p>	<p>I am a toucan. I have a large colorful bill that I use to open up fruits, nuts, and seeds. I use the shelter of large branches and big leaves for protection and shade.</p>	 <p>Aquatic</p>	<p>I picked the _____ to live in an aquatic habitat. I picked this animal because</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>

Activity 6: Habitat Clue Sleuths

In this activity, you'll get to help a traveler figure out where he landed.



Hi! My name is Jason. I love to travel and do puzzles. I have been stuck inside all winter, and I'm really bored. So I decided to pack my stuff and go on a trip. I heard you were studying habitats so I made some puzzles to help you decide where I'm traveling to. Your job is to solve them and figure out where I am!

Clue #1: Answer each question. Write the letter above the correct answer in the clue to decode it!

990	392	659	336	251	718	831

					W				
659	251	831	990	392	367	322	831	392	406

Example:

				W	
			XXXXXXX		

A 300 + 20 + 2	H Nine Hundred Ninety	T 30 + 800 + 1
R Four Hundred Six	E 2 + 90 + Three Hundred	N <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> x
I Six Hundred Fifty Nine	S <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> XXXXXX	O Seven Hundred + Ten + Eight

Clue #2

Count the money or solve each problem. Write the letter above the correct answer in the code.

708	392	831	659	831

119	807

215	831	659	833

85	119	708	708	85	831

G				
52	659	831	831	149

392	831	659	831

Example:

G



T 900-192	Y 200 + 1433	H 192 + 100	V 415-200
E 881- 50	S 7 + 800	R 200 + 40 + 10 + 400 + 9	
L		N	

Where did Jason go? Use the two clues to circle the habitat that makes the most sense.

 <p>Desert</p>	 <p>Grasslands</p>	 <p>Rainforest</p>	 <p>Aquatic</p>
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How do you know? Explain why you chose that habitat.

Activity 7: How I impact the habitats of others

Read the following article abridged from NewsELA:

What we lose when animals become extinct



Life on our planet is in danger. Plant and animal species are disappearing. A species is a group of organisms. They are very closely related. They are able to have babies with one another.

More than 28,000 species of plants and animals are facing extinction. This warning is from the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). The actual number of species in danger could be much higher. One report says that extinction threatens one million animal and plant species.

The Biggest Threat: Humans

Habitat loss is the biggest threat facing most animals. It is caused by humans. We cut down forests. We build houses and cities. We dig up the land for farms. We also hunt animals and catch fish. Sometimes, people destroy animals' habitats. Other times, they change the habitat completely. Animals cannot always survive. Fences can change their habitats. They keep animals from moving for food.

Other threats are more widespread. Trade can spread disease around the world. Another threat is climate change. It will affect every species on Earth. All of these threats lead back to humans as the cause.

Threat: Disease

Since the 1980s, a fungal disease has hurt amphibians. These include frogs. The disease attacks the frog's skin. It stops its heart. This leads to death.

The disease spread worldwide. It spread through human food. It also spread through pet trading networks. More than 500 amphibian species were affected. Of these, 90 species may be extinct.

Threat: Habitat Loss

Butterflies can fly long distances. They feed on many types of flowers. But earlier in their lives, they are caterpillars. They eat the plants that they hatch on. The plants are lost to buildings or farming. As a result, butterflies disappear.

Threat: Poaching

Poaching is illegal hunting. Elephants are a poaching target. In the early 1900s, about 100,000 elephants lived in Asia. Poaching cut the number of elephants in half. Elephants are killed for their ivory tusks. They are killed for meat and skin, too.

Threat: Deforestation

Deforestation means cutting away forests. Lemurs live in trees. For them, there's no life without the forest. There's also no life without Madagascar. It's their only home. But Madagascar has lost 80 percent of its trees. This is due to human development. Thirty-eight lemur species are endangered.

On The Brink

More than 200 mammals are endangered today. Some reptiles, fish and insects are also at risk of extinction. Scientists say we're on the brink of a mass extinction. This is when many species are wiped out.

The last mass extinction was 66 million years ago. It killed off the dinosaurs. Scientists believe an asteroid hit Earth. Today the cause of extinction is human activity.

Task: On a separate sheet of paper, write a letter to a friend telling them about how humans are contributing to potential animal extinction. Tell them three facts that you learned from the article. Then, share what you think should be done to make change.