

CREATE A CREATURE

AGES

Children 4+ years
Multigenerational

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

There is no place like home! And that home. And that home. In this program, children learn about habitats and how animals adapt to them. Read *Listen to our World* (2016) and/or show a brief video, such as “Animal Habitats” by Learning Junction. Show habitat cards and discuss which animals live in each habitat and why, then let participants get creative! Their task is to create a brand new animal that would thrive in a particular habitat. You can have them draw habitat cards, let them choose whichever habitat they like, or base the whole program around a specific habitat. Ask everyone to present their new animal—and describe what makes it perfectly suited to its habitat—at the end of the program. Suggested runtime: 90–120 minutes

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

You will need:

- Laptop and AV equipment
- A storytime-friendly book about habitats
- Habitat cards
- A variety of craft materials and tools (felt, cardboard, glue, clay, etc.)

Before the program, create large habitat cards with an image on one side and name (forest, jungle, wetland, etc.) on the other (see Printables). Set out craft supplies, and set up AV equipment if you plan to show a video.

RESOURCES

Web

Short habitat videos from PBS Learning Media: <https://bit.ly/2WJ2FkU>

Habitat lesson ideas from the Kennedy Center: <https://bit.ly/2Ag0XQu>

List of habitat websites/tools from Teach Hub: <https://bit.ly/3bt6gsX>

Habitat games from the Smithsonian: <https://ssec.si.edu/habitats>

“Animal Habitats” from Learning Junction: <https://bit.ly/3cnuDtc>

Habitat science from Home Science Tools: <https://bit.ly/2zAv7NX>

TIP:

This is a great program for family nights. Families can create new creatures together, or maybe even a family mascot.

ADAPTATION:

For younger children, make a game of matching animals to habitats.

TIP:

What are the four basic components of a habitat to consider?

TIP:

For more habitat resources, see Chapter 05: Recycling Olympics.

TIP:

For a board game, try EcoChains: Arctic Life, a multiplayer tabletop food web-building card game.

Habitat Books

Picture Books

Amazing Animal Homes (2018) by Chris Packham and Jason Cockcroft (NF)

Beehive (2020) by Jorey Hurley (NF)

Creature Features: 25 Animals Explain Why They Look the Way They Do (2014) by Steve Jenkins and Robin Page (NF)

Listen to Our World (2016) by Bill Martin Jr. and Michael Sampson (NF)

Lots of Spots (2010) by Lois Ehlert (NF)

My Very First Book of Animal Homes (2007) by Eric Carle (NF)

Over and Under the Pond (2017) by Kate Messner and Christopher Silas Neal (NF)

A Place to Start a Family: Poems About Creatures That Build (2018) by David L. Harrison and Giles Laroche (NF)

Step Inside!: A Look Inside Animal Homes (2012) by Catherine Ham (NF)

Through the Animal Kingdom: Discover Amazing Animals and Their Remarkable Homes (2019) by Derek Harvey and Charlotte Pepper (NF)

Walk on the Wild Side by Nicholas Oldland (F)

Waiting for Wings (2001) by Lois Ehlert (NF)

Welcome Home Bear (2015) by Il Sung Na (picture book)

We Build Our Homes: Small Stories of Incredible Animal Architects (2018) by Laura Knowles and Chris Madden (NF)

Early Readers

Animal Architects (2019) by Libby Romero (NF)

Around the Pond: Who's Been Here? (1996) by Lindsay Barrett George (or any *Who's Been Here* book) (F)

Homes in the Wild: Where Baby Animals and Their Parents Live (2019) by Lita Judge (NF)

Middle Grade

Animal Atlas (2019) by Anne Rooney and Lucy Rose (NF)

The Boreal Forest: A Year in the World's Largest Land Biome (2020) by L.E. Carmichael and Josée Bisailon (NF)

How Deep Is the Ocean? Ocean Animal Habitats (2018) by Monika Davies (NF)

Mez's Magic (The Lost Rainforest #1) (2018) by Eliot Schrefer and Emilia Dziubak (F)

Pax (2016) by Sara Pennypacker and Jon Klassen (F)

CRAFT | GAME/ACTIVITY | LOW COST | SOLO-LIBRARIAN FRIENDLY

Rewilding: Giving Nature a Second Chance (2017) by Jane Drake and Ann Love (NF)

Shell, Beak, Tusk: Shared Traits and the Wonders of Adaptation (2017) by Bridget Heos (NF)

The Water Bears (2020) by Kim Baker (F)

RESIZABLE DOWNLOADS

(SEE ONLINE MANUAL OR USB)

Urban habitat



Arctic habitat



Forest habitat



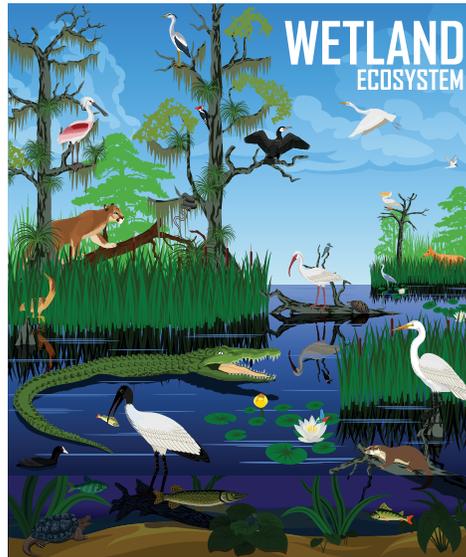
Jungle habitat



RESIZABLE DOWNLOADS

(SEE ONLINE MANUAL OR USB)

Wetland habitat



Farm habitat



Ocean habitat



Desert habitat

