



2nd/3rd Grade Activity: Animal Habitat Sorting

*Different animals live in different habitats and have specific adaptations that help them survive in those habitats.
(NGSS Disciplinary Core Ideas 2.LS4.D: Biodiversity and Humans; 3.LS4.C: Adaptation)*

Pre-Activity Questions

- What is a habitat? Can you list a few examples?

Activity

- Let's focus on animal groups that live in 3 general types of habitats - arboreal, terrestrial, aquatic.
 - **ARBOREAL** animals live in trees. This can include roots, canopies, branches, leaves, trunks, and more. Arboreal habitats can range from tropical rainforests to oak woodlands.
 - **TERRESTRIAL** animals live on land. In addition to arid deserts, savanas, and coasts, terrestrial habitats also include cities, towns, and farms. It can also include underground habitats like caves!
 - **AQUATIC** animals live in the water. These areas are permanently covered in water. They can range from the deep depths of the ocean to estuaries and rivers.
- Let's think about what animals might need to survive in these different habitats.

Create Your Own Habitat

Materials

- Glue
- Scissors
- 3 pieces of paper
- Pencils, markers or crayons
- Pictures of animals from magazines, books, calendars, etc.

Steps

1. Using **scissors**, cut out **pictures of animals** - all different types. You can use old magazines, books, and calendars or print some pictures on scratch paper.
2. Using a different **piece of paper** for each, **draw** TREES, LAND, and WATER.
 - a. Label each ARBOREAL, TERRESTRIAL, AQUATIC
 - b. Decide what type of habitat each is going to be. For example, tropical rainforest, arid desert, and estuary.

3. **Glue** your different animals onto the habitat they belong in.
 - a. Keep in mind, some animals may not belong in one of your habitats.
4. OPTIONAL: Add plants to match your habitat. What else do these animals need?

Post-Discussion and Activity

- Why do you think each animal belongs where you placed them? Can that animal survive in a different place? Why or why not?
- What would happen if their habitat suddenly changed? What are some things that might drastically change an animal's habitat? What can you do to help mitigate the impacts of that change?
 - Need a hint? Visit our [website](#) to see how you can take action for wildlife.
- Watch *Our Planet* on Netflix. Different habitats are featured in each episode.
- Write a story of an animal in each habitat and what their daily life might be like.