

BLINK AT HOME

HABITATS

Which habitats are homes for which animals?

Skills to Develop

- + Science content knowledge
- + Science process skills
- + Mathematical thinking

Materials

- + Habitat photos [PDF]
- + Animal toys
- + Paper
- + Crayons/colored pencils/markers

WHAT TO DO

During the Learning Activity

1. Gather toy animals. Discuss with your child what they know about each animal. Ask: *what is this animal? Do you know where this animal lives? What else do you know about this animal?*
2. Look at the habitat photos [PDF] and read about the different habitats. Discuss each habitat with your child. Invite them to share observations. Ask: *what animals do you think live here?*
3. Invite your child to sort the animal toys by which lives in each habitat. Ask questions about the animals to help guide your child into placing the animals into the correct habitat.
4. Once your child has finished sorting the animals, discuss why each animal might be happy living in that habitat or unhappy living in a different habitat.
5. Invite your child to create pictures of the animals in their habitats using the paper and crayons. As they work, ask questions about their art making process: *what colors did you choose? Why did you pick those colors? What shapes are you using to make that animal?*

Extend the Fun

- + Learn more about animals that live in different habitats.
- + Create a zoo for your animal toys, with dioramas of habitats for each animal.

BLINK: HABITATS

Habitat photos: Print and use



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TEMPERATE FOREST

Temperate forests have lots of trees, both trees that lose their leaves and trees that have green all year round. Most temperate forests get between 30 and 60 inches of water every year, enough to grow big trees. The animals that live in temperate forests have to live in warmer summer weather and colder winter weather.

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Habitat photos: Print and use



"Dreaming Lush Green Grass and Spring Sunsets" by DCSL is licensed with CC BY-NC 2.0. To view a copy of this license, visit <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/2.0/>

FRESH WATER

There are lots of different types of fresh water, including ponds, swamps, streams, rivers, and lakes. These bodies of water are all fresh water, rather than salt water like the ocean. Many different types of animals live in fresh water habitats around the world.

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Habitat photos: Print and use



"A woman's heart is a deep ocean of secrets" by Chrismatos 90% OFF, sorry is licensed with CC BY 2.0. To view a copy of this license, visit <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/>

OCEAN

Ocean habitats consist of salt water. Oceans cover most of the Earth. Some animals that live in the ocean can breathe water, like fish. Other ocean animals must come to the surface to breathe air, like a whale.

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Habitat photos: Print and use



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POLAR

The polar habitats surround the North Pole and the South Pole. Some parts of this habitat have ice and snow all year round, and in other parts the snow and ice melt during the summer and freeze during the winter. There are no large trees because the ground stays frozen, but there are lots of grasses.

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Habitat photos: Print and use



"Scenic Alaska Mountains" by Accretion Disc is licensed with CC BY 2.0. To view a copy of this license, visit <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/>

MOUNTAINS

The higher you go up a mountain, the colder it gets. This means that some of the plants and animals that live near the bottom of the mountain cannot live near the top of the mountain. Many animals that live in the mountains are good at climbing and staying warm.

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Habitat photos: Print and use



"Sunset in the Mojave Desert" by steveberardi is licensed with CC BY-NC-SA 2.0. To view a copy of this license, visit <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/2.0/>

DESERT

Deserts get very little rain, less than 10 inches a year. They are the driest places in the world. Plants and animals in the desert must be really good at saving their water for a long time. Many animals have ways to stay warm during the night and cool during the day. Some animals remain underground during the hot day and only emerge onto the ground when it is much cooler at night.

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Habitat photos: Print and use



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RAINFOREST

Rainforests receive the most rainfall each year, at least 80 inches. Trees in the rainforest grow very tall, as much as 200 feet. This makes four layers within the rainforest, with different animals living at different heights among the trees.

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GRASSLANDS

There are different names for grasslands around the world, including savanna, steppe, prairies, veldts, and rangelands. Grasslands are often found between the deserts and the mountains. These areas are pretty dry, and many animals must travel to find water.