



What's Your Habitat?



In this lesson, children will recognize that humans share the same basic needs as all other living things.

BACKGROUND:

All forms of life need certain basic things to live. Survival depends on getting enough food, water, cover, and places to raise offspring. Cover may mean protection from the sun or other elements as well as protection from other animals. A habitat is the natural home or environment of an animal, plant, or other organism. For example, monarch butterflies lay their eggs on milkweed plants, which provide some cover as well as a food source for growing monarch larvae. Therefore, a monarch habitat must include milkweed plants for the butterfly to raise young.

MATERIALS:

- Drawing paper
- Markers/crayons
- Pictures of different types of homes, animal homes, animals in their habitat, and examples of different habitats (forest, desert, or wetlands)



PROCEDURE:

- Look at the various home and habitat photos that you selected.
- Have a discussion as a family about what humans need to survive. Then discuss which of these plants and animals also need.
 - Question prompts:
 - What do humans need to live?
 - What do plants and animals need to live?
 - What do we have in common?
- Pass out art supplies and ask children to draw their home and neighborhood.
- Then ask children to draw an animal of their choice and where that animal lives. This may involve some research to learn about the animal's habitat.
- Compare the child's habitat with the animal's habitat.
- Point out that wildlife have the same basic needs as humans and the similarities in the habitat.

CONCLUSION:

Have a conversation to discuss how you as a family can create a habitat around your home for local wildlife like birds, butterflies, and other beneficial insects. Make a plan together to put your ideas into place!

Learn more at:



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