

Habitat

Sweet Habitat

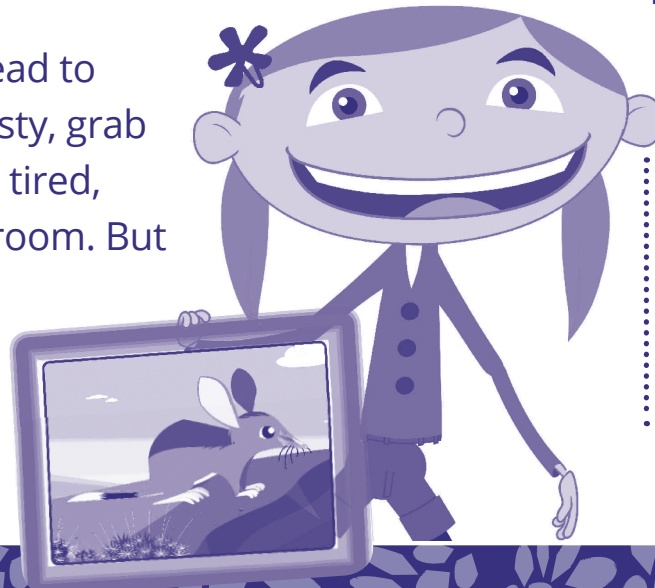


Exploring your world,
one mission at a time

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What Is this Activity?

When you're hungry, you head to the kitchen for a snack. Thirsty, grab a drink from the fridge. And tired, you go to sleep in your bedroom. But what do animals do when they are hungry, thirsty, or tired? Find out in this activity!



Topic
habitats,
biodiversity

Activity Type
indoor and
outdoor

Activity Time
60 minutes

ACTIVITY

Part A

What You'll Need

- Craft sticks
- Notebook
- Pencil
- Crayons or markers
- Craft supplies such as pipe cleaners, pom-poms, construction paper, tape, and glue
- *Creature Cards* handout
- String

Imagine Habitats

Talk with your child about all the things your home and neighborhood provide you—food, water, a place to sleep, and shelter for when it rains or snows. Animals need all of these things too, but where do they find them? Make a drawing together of your yard or neighborhood, showing places where you think animals can meet these needs, their “habitat.”

Then, cut out the creature cards and make drawings of what you think these creatures might look like. You also might make 3-D models of the creatures using craft supplies. If you prefer, invent creatures of your own! Describe what they eat, how they find food, and where they spend their time. Make drawings of them or build models with craft supplies.



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Habitat Hunt

Head out to your yard or a nearby park with crayons, markers, construction paper, tape, craft supplies, and craft sticks. Bring along the drawings you have made as well.

Explore, looking for a place that would be an ideal habitat for each creature.



Then:

- Make a poster of the habitat, showing where the creature finds food and shelter.
- Give the habitat a fun, descriptive name, such as Asphalt Alley, Ranger's Ridge, or Crickety Thicket.
- Tape this sign to a craft stick and place it in the ground in the habitat.
- Tape the drawing of the creature to another craft stick. Find a place in the habitat where you might find this creature. If it perches in trees, for example, have your child carefully tuck the craft stick in a fork of the tree's branches, or tie it to the tree with string.

Ask:

- What might be some real animals you would find in your habitat?
- What other habitats do you think we might find in our yard or in the neighborhood?

EXPLORE SOME MORE

Creature Feature

Act out a short play in which you show how the creatures interact with each other and use the different parts of their habitat throughout the day and night. For example, is one a predator and one prey? Imagine how the prey might hide from the predator—and how the predator might sneak up on the prey. Use your model creatures to act out that interaction. If your child has action figures of animals or other creatures, incorporate these into your play as well.



Who's in This Habitat?

Give your child four pieces of string, each about a foot and a half long, and head outdoors. Use the strings to mark off a square anywhere in your yard or neighborhood—on the lawn, under a tree, or even along the sidewalk. Record how many different kinds of plants and animals are inside the square. (Remember, invertebrates like ants, earthworms, and pillbugs are animals too!) You don't need to count every single blade of grass, just the different **types** of plants and animals you find. Repeat in different locations, and jot down your findings in your field notebook. Then, make some comparisons. Where did you find the highest number of different kinds of living things? The lowest number? What might be some reasons for these differences?

To discover more about this amazing planet we call home, check out **PLUM LANDING** at pbskids.org/plumlanding where you'll find games, videos and, of course, Plum!