

# Pin the Moose on the Mountain



Exploring your world,  
one mission at a time

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## What Is this Activity?

Where do you think you might be if you start your day strolling through a warm, leafy forest and end it walking on ice and snow? On a mountain! In this mapping activity, your child will explore the animals and plants that live on the different parts of a mountain.



**Topic**  
habitats,  
biodiversity

**Activity Type**  
indoor

**Activity Time**  
60 minutes

## ACTIVITY

### Part A

#### What You'll Need

- Notebook
- Pencil
- Crayons or markers
- Piece of posterboard or poster-sized paper
- Scissors
- Tape or glue
- Craft supplies such as pipe cleaners, pom-poms, and construction paper (optional)
- *Meet Us on the Mountain* handout

#### Imagine Mountains

Ask your child: Where might we be if we started strolling through a warm, leafy forest and ended up walking on bare rocks, possibly covered in ice and snow? If your child seems stumped, provide a hint: you would be walking uphill all day.

Then work together to draw the outline of a mountain on a large sheet of paper.

#### Ask:

- What do you think the climate is like at the top of a mountain? The bottom?
- How might sunlight, temperature, and rain or snow affect where the plants and animals on a mountain live?



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## Make a Mountain

**1** Cut out the cards from the *Meet Us on the Mountain* handout. As you read each card, talk about where each organism might live on a mountain.

**Ask:**

- What does this animal need to eat? Where will it find its food?
- Where is its habitat?
- If it eats other organisms, what do those organisms eat?
- What does this plant need? Where will it find things it needs?
- Does the card give any clues about where on the mountain the organism lives?

You and your child don't need to know exactly which kinds of plants an herbivore like a ground squirrel might eat—don't worry about the "right" answers. Instead, think about which animals eat plants, which animals eat those animals, and which resources plants need to survive.



**2** Using the cards as a reference, draw each plant or animal you would find in a mountain ecosystem. Make multiple drawings of each. Cut out these drawings, then glue or tape them to the parts of a mountain where you think each plant or animal lives. If you like, you could also build model plants and animals with craft supplies.

**3** As you create the mountain, talk with your child about the relationships among the plants and animals.

**Ask:**

- What might the wolf eat? What might the ground squirrel eat?
- What might happen if there are more wolves than ground squirrels? More ground squirrels than plants?
- What might happen if all the plants on the mountain disappeared?
- Are there more plants or more animals in most ecosystems? Why?

## EXPLORE SOME MORE

### Map Your World

Go for a walk around your yard, apartment building, or neighborhood. Identify different kinds of habitats. These might be open spaces such as sports fields or parking lots; vegetation such as shrubs, flowers, or grass; or yards with trees or gardens in them. Predict what kinds of animals might live in each place, and jot down in your field

notebook any animals you see. Remember, spiders, insects, and worms are animals, too! How do the animals you see find food, water, and shelter? How do the plants survive? Back at home, make a map of your yard or neighborhood, drawing the locations of different habitats and listing the plants and animals you might find in each one.

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