

Educator Overview:

Get Wild: Exploring Habitats

Audience	Grade levels K-2, 3-5 (see overview)	Subject Science>Life Sciences	Topic Habitats, Ecosystems
Guiding Questions	1. Where do plants and animals live?	2. How do plants and animals rely on each other?	3. Why is biodiversity important for the environment?
Objectives	1. Participants will be able to define habitats and ecosystems. 2. Participants will be able to share examples of habitats such as Arctic, Forest, Desert, and Grassland and their unique characteristics. 3. Participants will be able to define biodiversity and gain an overview of why it's healthy for the environment.		
Vocabulary	Habitat, ecosystem, arctic, grassland, desert, forest, biodiversity		
Overview	<p>This resource kit provides an overview of habitats, ecosystems, and biodiversity. It is intended to serve as a starting point for discussions and activities, with the flexibility to expand into more in-depth lesson planning tailored to your classroom and the age groups you teach.</p> <p>If students have sufficient reading abilities, this resource kit can be used as a mostly self-guided tool. It was also created with whole-class engagement in mind and can be easily adapted for this purpose. For older students, particularly those in 4th and 5th grades, more in-depth self-led planning is recommended.</p> <p>All activities are optional. Lessons and activities that accomplish the main objectives of this resource kit are italicized. Printable activities are marked with an asterisk (*).</p> <p>Where Do Plants and Animals Live? (Hotspot) Activate prior knowledge by exploring each hotspot and answering questions to get students thinking about habitats and their inhabitants.</p>		

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	<p>Includes videos such as “Wisconsin Woodlands” (3:11 minutes) and a 3D Tour of Wisconsin Woodlands exhibit for forest habitats for further exploration.</p> <p><i>What is a Habitat?</i> Define habitats and explore arctic, desert, forest, and grassland habitats.</p> <p><i>Activity: Critter Cards*</i> Students receive one or all four panels and draw the habitat for an animal. Guide them with questions about the animal's survival needs.</p> <p><i>Who Am I? (Presentation/Activity)</i> Reinforce that not all animals are suited to all habitats.</p> <p><i>Activity: Who Am I?</i> Students guess animals based on riddles describing their needs and habitats. They then create their own riddles, focusing on unique characteristics that determine the animal's habitat.</p> <p><i>How Do Living Things Work Together? (Presentation)</i> Use a tree in a forest as an example to explain ecosystems and interactions within them.</p> <p><i>Activity: Food Web*</i> Students draw connections between plants and animals, illustrating their interactions.</p> <p><i>Activity: Where Do I Live?</i> Students cut out and paste animals and plants into their correct habitats.</p> <p><i>Buzzing with Biodiversity (Presentation)</i> The bees are in trouble! Find out and define biodiversity and think of ideas to help the bees.</p> <p>Includes video “Biodiversity Bash” (4:51 minutes) that reinforces previously learned material about ecosystems and food webs.</p>
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	<p>Activity: Biodiversity Bingo* Students find plants and animals outside that match their bingo card.</p> <p>Activity: Escape to the Outdoors (Escape Room) A quick escape room game covering the basics learned throughout the resource kit.</p>
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