

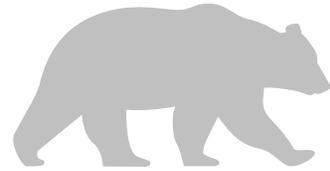
DIY Habitat



A habitat is the home or environment of a plant, animal, or organism. A good habitat has food, protection, shelter, and the right climate for survival. Let's imagine a creature and create the perfect habitat!

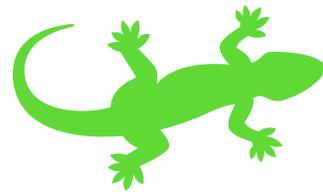
Materials:

- Modeling clay or Play-Doh
- Art supplies
- Various craft supplies/scrap material
- Scissors
- Tape/Glue
- A small box/container to build habitat in
- Alternatively, collect natural material from outdoors to build habitat



Preparation:

- Set out craft materials and art supplies for participants.
- Separate play-doh or clay into colors/individual portions.



Try This:

1. Decide which creature to build a habitat for. Create this creature out of clay.
2. Brainstorm what your creature will need for a good habitat.
3. Using the craft supplies or natural materials, create a habitat in your container.
4. Add your creature to the habitat you've made.
5. For an extra challenge, write a short story or poem about your creature living in its habitat.

Want to Know More?

Different habitats exist all around the Earth and can be large like a continent, or small like a seasonal pond. The number of habitats found on Earth will depend on whom you ask, but a few of the most common include grasslands, deserts, polar regions, oceans, freshwater, mountains, and rainforests. All of these habitats include animals and plants that have adapted to live and survive in the specific climate, geography, and to the resources available to them. Some animals have behavioral adaptations like burrowing under the sand, making particular calls to communicate, and hunting in groups. Animals also have physical adaptations, which describe ways their body has developed to help them survive. For example, ducks have webbed feet to swim through the water, whales have blubber to keep them warm in the ocean, and leopards have spots to help them camouflage. Each habitat will have its own ecosystem filled with producers (plants), consumers (animals that eat plants) and secondary consumers (animals that eat animals). The relationship between these elements can show the health of a habitat.

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Facilitator Guide



Learning Objectives:

- Habitats are the home or environment where a plant, animal, or organism lives.
- A good habitat is one that includes food, access to water, shelter, protection, and a suitable climate.
- Animals and plants have behavioral or physical adaptations that help them survive in their habitat.
- Habitats can be destroyed forcing animals and plants to find new habitats to live in. This may cause some species to become extinct or new adaptations to evolve.

Leading Questions:

- What resources are in your habitat that will help your creature to survive?
- What other kinds of creatures could live in your habitat?
- How would your creature need to adapt if certain elements of your habitat were removed or destroyed?

Hospital Accommodations:

- Include adaptive scissors in your kit for those developing fine motor control.
- Create kits with necessary supplies to for those who want to continue working on their project in their room
- 1-oz Playdoh containers make good individual portions of clay that can be kept sanitary for each patient.

Key Words:

Habitat - a home or environment where a plant, animal, or organism lives.

Adaptation - a change or process of change by which an organism becomes better suited to survive in its environment. Some adaptations are behavioral (ex. mating calls, hunting in packs) and some adaptations are physical (ex. camouflage, sharp talons, prehensile tails).

Climate - the weather conditions prevailing in an area over a long period of time.

Producers - an organism that serves as the source of food for other organisms, often plants or bacteria. Producers create their own food through a process of converting energy from one type to another (e.g. photosynthesis).

Consumers - an organism that obtains food by feeding on other organisms (either producers or other consumers).