

# EVERYBODY NEEDS A HOME

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## OBJECTIVE

Students will be able to generalize that people and other animals share a basic need to have a home.

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## METHOD

Students draw pictures of homes and compare their needs with those of other animals.

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## BACKGROUND

Humans and other animals—including pets, farm animals and wildlife—have some of the same basic needs. Every animal needs a home. But that home is not just a “house” like those in which people live. Home, for many animals, is a much bigger place—and it’s outdoors. The scientific term for an animal’s home is “habitat.” An animal’s habitat includes **food**, **water**, **shelter** or cover and **space**. Because animals need the food, water, shelter and space to be available in a way that meets the animals’ needs, we say that these things must be available in a suitable **arrangement**.

Homes are not just houses. A house may be considered shelter. People build houses, apartments, trailers, houseboats and other kinds of shelter in which to live. Animals don’t need a home that looks like a house—but they do need some kind of shelter. The shelter might be underground, in a bush, in the bark of a tree, or in some rocks.

Animals need a place in which to find food and water. They also need enough space in which to live and find the food, water and shelter they need. Everybody

needs a home! And “home” is bigger than a “house.” Home is more like a “neighborhood” that has everything in it that is needed for survival.

The major purpose of this activity is for students to generalize that animals need a home.

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## MATERIALS

drawing paper; crayons or chalk

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## PROCEDURE

1. Ask the students to draw a picture of where they live—or to draw a picture of the place where a person they know lives. Ask the students to include pictures in their drawing of the things they need to live where they do; for example, a place to cook and keep food, a place to sleep, a neighborhood.
2. Once the drawings are finished, have a discussion with the students about what they drew. Ask the students to point out the things they need to live that they included in their drawings.
3. Make a “gallery of homes” out of the drawings. Point out to the students that everyone has a home.
4. Ask the students to close their eyes and imagine: a bird’s home, an ant’s home, a beaver’s home, the President’s home, their home.

OPTIONAL: Show the students pictures of different places that animals live.

5. Discuss the differences and similarities among the different homes with the students. Talk about the things every animal needs in its home: food, water, shelter and space in which to live, arranged in a way that the animal can survive. Summarize the discussion by emphasizing that although the homes are different, every animal—people, pets, farm animals and wildlife—needs a home. Talk about the idea that a home is actually bigger than a house. In some ways, it is more like a neighborhood. For animals, we can call that neighborhood where all the survival needs are met a “habitat.” People go outside their homes to get food at a store, for example. Birds, ants, beavers and other animals have to go out of their “houses” (places of shelter) to get the things they need to live.

**Age:** Grade K-3

**Subjects:** Science, Language Arts, Art

**Skills:** analysis, comparing similarities and differences, discussion, drawing, generalization, visualization

**Duration:** 30 minutes or longer

**Group Size:** any; however, no more than 25 students is recommended

**Setting:** indoors or outdoors

**Conceptual Framework Reference:** I.A., I.A.4., I.C.1., I.C.2.

**Key Vocabulary:** differences, similarities, survival needs, habitat

**Appendices:** None

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**EXTENSIONS**

1. Draw animal homes. Compare them to places where people live.
2. Go outside and look for animal homes. Be sure not to bother the animals—or the homes—in the process!

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**AQUATIC EXTENSION**

Draw the "homes" of some kinds of aquatic wildlife. Fish, aquatic reptiles, amphibians, aquatic insects and aquatic mammals—just like all other kinds of wildlife—need food, water, shelter and space in a suitable arrangement.

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**EVALUATION**

1. Name three reasons why people need homes and three reasons why animals need homes.
2. Draw a picture of a suitable habitat for an animal. Write a paragraph to describe how the habitat meets the animal's needs for survival.

