

Water Wonder Habitat Activity

Animal – Habitat Matching Activity

KNOWLEDGE

- Identify the habitat of a number of different animals
- Understand the basic needs of animals, and how they reach these needs
- Understand how different animals are suited and adapted for different ecosystems
- Understand how different ecosystems have different environmental (abiotic) factors

ACTIVE

- Match animals to the habitats where they belong

TIME	GROUP SIZE	LOCATION	GRADE LEVEL	EQUIPMENT
As long or short as you'd like.	3-4	Classroom	K-4	List of needs for each selected animal Images of animals Images of corresponding habitats
DEBRIEF/REFLECTIVE COMPONENT			HELPFUL TIPS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why are animals found in some habitats but not others? • What are some features or adaptations that allow animals to live in their respective habitats? • How do different habitats differ in their environmental or abiotic factors? 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You can highlight or identify the features of the animals on the photos that suggest which habitat that they live in • You can also help the children be providing a list of needs for each animal, what organisms they interact with, and how they interact with them. 	

OCEAN LITERACY PRINCIPLES

1 – The Earth has one big ocean with many features.

- a. The ocean is the defining physical feature on our planet Earth – covering approximately 70% of the planet's surface. There is one ocean with many ocean basins, such as the North Pacific, South Pacific, North Atlantic, South Atlantic, Indian, Southern, and Arctic.
- b. Ocean basins are composed of the seafloor and all of its geological features (such as islands, trenches, mid-ocean ridges, and rift valleys) and vary in size, shape and features due to the movement of Earth's crust (lithosphere). Earth's highest peaks, deepest valleys and flattest plains are all in the ocean.

5 – The ocean supports a great diversity of life and ecosystems.

- a. Ocean life ranges in size from the smallest living things, microbes, to the largest animal on Earth, blue whales.
- e. The ocean provides a vast living space with diverse and unique ecosystems from the surface through the water column and down to, and below, the seafloor. Most of the living space on Earth is in the ocean.
- g. There are deep ocean ecosystems that are independent of energy from sunlight and photosynthetic organisms. Hydrothermal vents, submarine hot springs, and methane cold seeps, rely only chemical energy and chemosynthetic organisms to support life.
- h. Tides, waves, predation, substrate, and/or other factors cause vertical zonation patterns along the coast; density, pressure, and light levels cause vertical zonation patterns in the open ocean. Zonation patterns influence organisms' distributions and diversity.
- i. Estuaries provide important and productive nursery areas for many marine and aquatic species.

Setup

1. Start the activity by talking to the class about different ecosystem, and the components of the different ecosystems.
2. Mention some ideas of the types of animals that live in these ecosystems, and what adaptations they have that allow them to live here 3.
Split the class into small groups (3 or 4)
4. Give each class a set of images of animals and habitats (you can highlight certain features of the animal that would suggest which type of habitat they live in).
5. Have the students work as teams to figure out which animal lives in which type of habitat