



Habitat

We All Need Each Other

Through a study of habitat we learn about the world around us and our place in it, as well as the interdependence of animals and plants. It's a rich theme with a lot to teach. Included in this collection of activities are science and social studies activities, any of which will serve well to introduce the theme. The introductory activity below has an added dimension. It will extend and activate children's knowledge of habitat and interdependence and provide a rich context for discussing the important aspect of the theme.

Materials:

You will need quart jars in sufficient number to provide one to each group of four students, potting soil, elodea plants (available at tropical fish stores), and bird feed (probably available at the same store).

Procedure:

1. Place two inches of soil in a jar. Add about three inches of water and place the uncovered jar near a window. (Tap water works, but if you can get pond water, so much the better. It will provide some life forms to increase the variables in your habitat.) Let the jar stand for 12–24 hours.
2. Place an elodea plant in the jar.
3. Add three or four seeds of the bird feed every day or two. Do not add water to the jar. While there is standing water in the jar, the seeds will most certainly decompose. Continue adding seeds even when the water has completely evaporated.
4. As the water evaporates, the elodea will become exposed and will die. The seeds will begin to grow when the habitat is appropriate for them. Add water as needed to maintain the environment.
5. As the habitat begins to come to life, discuss what happened. What was needed to get the habitat growing? What conditions prevented the habitat from forming? What did the plants need to grow?

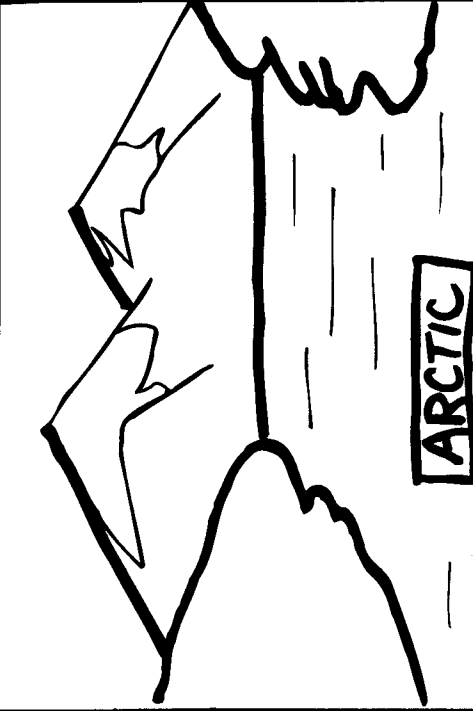
THIS IS THE PLACE TO BE! **HABITAT**



DESERT



SWAMP



ARCTIC



JUNGLE

ANIMALS
PUT EACH ANIMAL
IN ITS FAVORITE
HABITAT

ANIMALS FOR BULLETIN BOARD



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