



Build A Habitat

Discovering natural environments and adaptations

Theme: Habitats & Animal Adaptations

Time: 30 mins

Materials:

- Large container or pan
- Animal toys or printed animal cut-outs
- Outdoor area

Concepts:

- A habitat is the natural environment in which an animal lives
- Animal species are adapted to the particular habitats that they live in

What to Do:

- Let your child choose the species they want to make a habitat for. Perhaps they have a favourite animal toy, or you may wish to print a picture of the chosen species or find a photo in a magazine. Cut out the animal and paste to cardboard in order to keep it upright.
- In a pan or large tupperware container, create a suitable habitat for the chosen animal using materials found outdoors. Consider the habitat type it is found in, what it would eat and where it would hide?

Explanation:

A habitat is the type of natural environment in which a particular species of animal lives. In order to survive, an animal's habitat must provide them with food, water, shelter and space, as well as mates for reproduction.

Animals are adapted to the particular habitats that they live in. An adaptation is a way an animal's body helps it survive, or live, in its environment. Adaptations can be physical (the way that is built) or behavioural (the way that it acts). For example, Polar bears have a thick layer of fat to keep them warm in the Arctic and Ospreys migrate south in the winter to find their main food source of fish.

Discussion:

1. After the animal is chosen, discuss what type of habitat they live in (forest, wetland, arctic, meadow etc.), what they eat, and where they would hide or sleep.
2. What characteristics does your animal have to help it survive in its environment? (thick fur, camouflage, webbed feet, antlers etc.)
3. What materials can be used to create the animal's habitat? (Pinecones can be used to make trees, clover leafs look like lily pads on water, rock piles can be a cave) The sky is the limit!
4. Create a food chain! What other animals would live in this environment? What would your animal eat? What would eat your chosen animal? Add them to the habitat to create a full ecosystem.



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