

Lesson Plan: Animal Homes – Exploring Where Animals Live

Age Group: 5-Year-Olds-Plus

Duration: 30-40 minutes

Learning Objectives:

By the end of the lesson, children will be able to:

1. Understand what an animal habitat is and why it's important.
2. Learn about different types of animal habitats (forests, oceans, deserts, backyards).
3. Recognize that animals build homes to stay safe, find food, and raise their young.
4. Appreciate the importance of protecting animal habitats.

Materials:

- Video Tutorial by [DiscoverLifeSkills.com](https://www.discoverlifeskills.com): *Animal Homes – Exploring Where Animals Live*
- Pictures or toy models of animals in different habitats (bears, fish, camels, birds)
- Craft supplies (paper, crayons, glue, scissors)
- Small boxes or containers to represent animal homes (optional)
- Large poster board or whiteboard for drawing
- Animal stickers or cutouts for decorating

Lesson Structure:

1. Introduction (5 minutes)

- Start by asking the children, "Where do you live?" and explain that just like they have homes, animals have special places called habitats.
- Show a few pictures or toy animals (e.g., a bear, fish, and bird) and ask, "Where do you think this animal lives?"

2. Watch the Video (10 minutes)

- Play the video *Animal Homes – Exploring Where Animals Live*.
- Encourage children to think about the different habitats shown in the video (forest, ocean, desert, backyard).
- After the video, ask them to share which animal or habitat was their favorite.

3. Discussion (5-7 minutes)

- Ask questions to reinforce key points:
 - "What is a habitat?" (Answer: A place where animals live)
 - "Can you name some different habitats?" (Answer: Forest, ocean, desert, backyard)

- "Why do animals need homes?" (Answer: To stay safe, find food, and stay warm)
- Use the poster board or whiteboard to draw simple pictures of a forest, ocean, desert, and backyard. Add animals to each habitat and explain how each habitat helps animals live and grow.

4. Hands-On Activity (10-12 minutes)

- **Create Your Own Animal Habitat:**
 - Give each child a piece of paper and crayons, and ask them to draw an animal and its home. Encourage them to think about what the animal needs in its habitat (trees, water, rocks, etc.).
 - If using small boxes or containers, children can decorate them to represent different animal homes (a den for a bear, a nest for a bird, etc.).
 - Let them use animal stickers or cutouts to add animals to their drawings or models.
- **Habitat Match Game:**
 - Show pictures of different habitats (forest, ocean, desert, backyard) and ask the children to match animals with the right habitat. For example, "Where does the camel live?" (Answer: Desert)

5. Review and Wrap-Up (5 minutes)

- Review the key points:
 - Animals live in different homes called habitats.
 - Habitats can be in forests, oceans, deserts, or even backyards.
 - It's important to protect animal habitats to keep animals safe.
- Ask the children to share one animal and its habitat they learned about today. You can also ask them to imagine what kind of animal home they would build if they were an animal.

Extension Activities:

- **Outdoor Habitat Exploration:** Take the children on a mini "exploration" in the schoolyard or nearby park to look for animal homes like bird nests, ant hills, or holes in the ground.
- **Animal Habitat Storybook:** Read a short picture book about animals and their homes, like "Over in the Forest" or "A House for Hermit Crab."
- **Building a Wildlife-Friendly Garden:** Teach children simple ways to make their backyards more welcoming for animals, such as putting out bird feeders or planting flowers that attract bees.

Teaching Tips for 5-Year-Olds:

1. **Make it personal:** Compare animal habitats to the children's own homes to help them understand why animals need a safe place to live.

2. **Use lots of visuals:** Bright, colorful pictures of animals and their homes will keep young children engaged and make the lesson memorable.
3. **Encourage hands-on creativity:** Whether they're drawing or building mini animal homes, children will learn better when they can interact with the materials.
4. **Keep the language simple:** Use basic terms like "home" and "place to live" instead of "habitat" initially, and slowly introduce new vocabulary as they become comfortable.

This lesson plan makes learning about animal homes fun and interactive by allowing young children to explore different habitats while fostering creativity and curiosity!