



Our world is one big community. We get everything we need from our home on earth. The Earth gives us our food, water, shelter, space and air to breathe.

Every plant and animal has a special place where it lives. This place is called a “habitat.” A habitat can be a forest, the ocean, a meadow, a city, or even your own neighborhood. What makes a habitat special is that it gives the plant or animal everything it needs to survive.

There are five important things plants and animals need from their habitat:

- **Food** – Everything needs food to live and grow! Squirrels eat nuts, eagles eat fish, many birds eat seeds and insects. Whatever an animal eats, it must find it in its habitat. (Even plants use things from their habitat to make food!) In cities, people often get their food from a grocery store, restaurant or garden.
- **Water** – All living things need water! Water may come from a puddle or stream, or – for most people - from a faucet in a building.
- **Shelter** – Protection from the wind, rain, and cold temperatures is very important for survival. Some animals build nests, hide in tree holes or dig a home under the ground. In cities, walls and ceilings provide a nice shelter for us – some animals even take advantage of them!
- **Space** – It’s important to have enough space in an area to move, grow and raise a family.
- **Air** – All living things need air to breath. It is all around us!

We are sending some activities to you that will help students think about and explore their own habitat – their neighborhood and the building where they live! The activities are designed for you, their best teacher, to participate with them.

These activities are designed to:

- Learn the key elements of a habitat - Food, Water, Shelter, Space and Air.
- Help you observe an indoor habitat, a place you may share with family or perhaps a house plant, pets, or even small spiders.
- Encourage you to look outside at your neighborhood habitat to see who is sharing it with you.
- Explore in your own yard or safely accessible neighborhood green spaces, if possible.

Nature is everywhere. Take your time, look closely, and enjoy.

Sincerely,

The Frick Environmental Center Educators

GET TO KNOW YOUR HABITAT

Just like plants and animals, humans have a habitat where they get everything they need to survive – this can be the place where you live, a house, or your neighborhood. Answer the following questions with your adult and draw a picture of your answer.

What does your **habitat** look like?

What gives you **shelter** by protecting you from the wind and the rain?

What is something in your habitat that helps give you **air**?

Where can you get **food** in your habitat?

Where can you get **water** in your habitat?

What is the biggest thing you can find that takes up **space** in your habitat?

Now think about where you live and what animals you have seen in your neighborhood. Choose one animal and draw a response to the questions below.

What does their **habitat** look like?

What gives them **shelter** to protect them from the wind and the rain?

What is something in their habitat that helps give them **air**?

Where can they get **food** in their habitat?

Where can they get **water** in their habitat?

Where can they find **space** to run around in their habitat?

HABITAT SCAVENGER HUNTS

Below are two scavenger hunts to do with your child/children at home.

These scavenger hunts are meant to be flexible. The first is for an indoor habitat, the second can be done by looking outside.

Indoor Habitat Scavenger Hunt:

Take a moment to look around the place where you live. See how many of these things you can do related to the 5 important things everyone needs from their habitat: food, water, shelter, space and air!



Food

- ___ Find a fork
- ___ Find something you love to eat!
- ___ Find a food you do not enjoy
- ___ Find a spoon
- ___ Find a fruit or a vegetable

Water

- ___ Find a cup
- ___ Touch a drop of water
- ___ Find two places water can be found
- ___ Take a drink of water

Shelter

- ___ Point to the ceiling
- ___ Touch 6 different walls
- ___ Sit on the floor for 10 seconds
- ___ Look out a window

Space

- ___ Find the room where you sleep in
- ___ Spread your arms out as wide as you can
- ___ Find something bigger than your hand
- ___ Find something smaller than your hand

Air

- ___ Find a place where you can feel the breeze
- ___ Take a deep breath and blow out like trying to fill up a balloon
- ___ Wave your hands around to create your own wind
- ___ Find a house plant and say 'Thank you' to it

Outdoor Habitat Scavenger Hunt

Your neighborhood is also a habitat. If you can, look out a window, a door, or from an outdoor space to find as many things from the list with your eyes and ears! If there are things you don't see, try again tomorrow. You may see something new!



Food:

- ___ Find a plant
- ___ Find a patch of grass

* There are many animals that get **food** from plants and grass!

Water:

- ___ Find a cloud
- ___ Find a puddle

* A cloud is made of condensed **water** droplets!

Shelter:

- ___ Find a hole
- ___ A pile of leaves on the ground

*The leaves covering the ground provide a **shelter** for bugs!

Space:

- ___ Find an animal that is flying
- ___ Find an animal that is running

* Plants and animals need enough **space** to move around and grow!

Air:

- ___ Find something blowing in the wind
- ___ Find a tree

* Trees can make **air**!

Bonus: Add your very own outdoor habitat discoveries here!