

Dear Parents/Guardians:

This past year we worked with your student at the Frick Environmental Center in a program called Habitat Explorers. The goal of this program is to provide an experience where your child could connect to nature, learn about the elements of a habitat, develop exploration techniques, and build excitement for the natural world.

In the fall:

- Students explored the meadow, learning how to take samples and make observations.
- Helped the meadow by making mud balls full of native seeds and tossed them into the meadow!

In the winter:

- Students explored the woodland, learning how to carefully turn over logs to search for living organisms.
- Supported wildlife during this challenging season by making bagel bird feeders to hang in the park or around their school yard!

Now it's your turn!

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

These activities are designed to:

- Review 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 and 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!

HABITAT EXPLORERS SONG

Each visit, your child learned a new verse to our Habitat Explorers song! This song was adapted for Frick Park from Bill Oliver's "Habitat" Song.

Chorus:

Habitat, habitat, have to have a habitat (x3)

You have to have a habitat to carry on

The meadow is a habitat, a very special habitat

It's where the hottest sun is at

Where plants & flowers & leaves adapt

Where monarchs lay their eggs to hatch

Where honeybees can drink, n'at

The meadow is a habitat we depend on

Chorus

The woodland is a habitat, a very special habitat

It's where the tallest trees are at

It's where a deer can scratch its back

It keeps the ground from rolling back

Renews the oxygen in fact

The woodland is a habitat we depend on

Chorus

A home is a habitat, a very special habitat

It's where your house and family's at, where you might have a dog or cat

It's where you eat and take a nap, can watch an ant crawl up some grass

A home is a habitat we depend on!