





## Home Sweet Home

Objective: Students will understand that people and animals have a basic need for a home.

Materials: drawing paper, crayons

Background: Humans and other animals—including pets, farm animals, and wildlife—have some of the same basic needs. Every animal needs a home, but that home is not just a "house" like those in which people live. "Home" for animals is a much larger place and it is outdoors. The scientific term for an animal's home is its "habitat." An animal's habitat includes food, water, shelter, and space. For people, houses are shelter. Animals' homes don't look like houses, but they do need shelter. Shelter could be as simple as a rock or as complex as a beaver dam. Animals need places where they can find food and water and space for a shelter. Students can think of animal homes as being more like a neighborhood than just a house. In these "neighborhoods" are everything the animal needs to survive.

## Procedure:

- 1. Have the students draw a picture of their home or the house of someone they know. Have them include important things they have in their homes that allow them to live there. For example, have them include places to store food, cook food, and sleep.
- 2. When the students are done, talk about what they drew. Ask the students to point out the things they need to live that they included in their drawings.
- 3. Make a gallery of the pictures and point out that everyone has a home.
- 4. Ask the students to close their eyes and imagine where other animals would live. You can also show them pictures of other animals' homes.
- 5. Talk about the differences among homes with the students. Talk about the things all animals need to survive—food, water, shelter, and space to live in. Summarize that though all houses are different, every animal needs a home. Talk about animal homes as neighborhoods—not just houses, but the area around the house as well. This area is their habitat. People, for instance, leave their homes to go to the store to get food and other things they need. Animals also leave their homes (shelter) and go out into their habitat to find things they need to survive.
- 6. Have students draw some animal homes and compare them to people homes.

If possible, go outside and look for animal homes...without disturbing the home or the animal!