



Lesson Plan

Theme: Animals have basic needs: space, water, food, shelter and air. Their habitat is where they live—it is a place that provides them with all of these needs.

Length of Lesson: 1hr 30m

Introduction: 20 minutes

Field and Interpretive Center (IC) Activities: 60 minutes

Conclusion: 10 minutes

Minnesota Academic Science Standards/Benchmarks:

1.4.2.1.1 – Recognize that animals need space, water, food, shelter, and air.

1.4.2.1.2 – Describe ways in which an animal's habitat provides for its basic needs.

Excellence in EE: Guidelines for Learning Standards:

- Grades (K-4) - Strand 2.2 The Living Environment, A) Organisms, Populations & Communities
- Grades (K-4) - Strand 2.2 The Living Environment, C) Systems and Connections

Objectives (Students will be able to...):

- name various types of habitats located at River Bend
- describe/name the types of animals that live in habitats at River Bend
- discuss why habitats are important for animals and humans

Background Information :

What is a habitat?

A habitat is more than just a home. It is a certain area where an animal prefers to live and can find everything that it needs (food, water, shelter, and space).

What do animals need in their habitat to survive?

The needs of every animal are unique; however, every animal has four basic requirements to live.

- Food: All creatures need to eat plants or other animals for food.
- Water: Some may not drink from visible water, but get water in their food.
- Shelter: The actual home where an animal most often rests, avoids harsh weather, and/or raises young.
- Space: Needs to be in a suitable arrangement, not too many of some things or not enough of others.

(Note that "air" is sometimes mentioned but isn't one of the "official four" as it is considered omnipresent and can cause confusion when discussing underwater and underground habitats.)

*Helping people discover, enjoy,
understand, and preserve the incredible
natural world that surrounds us.*

Introduction:

Goals: Welcome students to River Bend, introduce the River Bend leaders, and introduce the program content.

Key points:

- Welcome
- Define a habitat
- Define survival needs-food, water, shelter, space
- Set expectations for the day

Activity:

Habitat Hike (active learning)

Goal: To look for evidence (signs) that animals are living in woods, prairies, and wetlands of River Bend.

Key points:

- Visit several different ecosystems of River Bend (wetland, prairie, woods) and discuss if animal's needs could be met there.
- Look for evidence of animals (scat, nests, burrows, etc.)

Assessment: Throughout the activity ask students if they can determine if animals are able to meet all of the habitat needs in a given area. Inquire about differences in animal habitats and human habitats. Can they relate animal needs to human needs?