Home Sweet Habitat

Objectives
Students will (1) identify their own basic needs for food, water, shelter and space, (2) generalize that wildlife and other animals have similar basic needs, (3) create a picture showing how a habitat provides humans with what they need to survive and (4) create a similar habitat picture for animals, for side-by-side comparison with humans.

Method
Students draw pictures of human and animal homes, comparing basic needs.

Materials
- Paper
- Pencils, crayons or markers.
- Home Sweet Habitat Scavenger Hunt activity sheet (page 2)

Background
Humans and other animals—including pets, farm animals and wildlife—have some of the same basic needs. Every animal needs a home. However, a home is not just a house where people live. An animal’s home is called a habitat. An animal’s habitat includes food, water, shelter and space. Because animals need the food, water, shelter and space to be available in a way that meets their needs, these things must be available in a suitable arrangement.

A house may be considered shelters for people. People build houses, apartments, trailers, houseboats and other kinds of shelters in which to live. An animal’s shelter might be underground, in a bush, in the bark of a tree or in some rocks. Animals need a place to find food and water. They also need enough space in which to live and find the food, water and shelter they need. Home for an animal is more like a neighborhood that has everything in it that is needed for survival.

Procedure
1. Write the following words on a chalkboard: food, water, shelter, space.
2. Read each word aloud, asking the students to repeat the words.
3. Food and water will be easy concepts for the students to understand. Shelter and space will be more difficult. Ask the students to explain the definitions of shelter and space.
4. Give the students paper, pencils, crayons or markers. Ask the students to draw a picture of where they live, including pictures of where they find food, water, shelter and space.
5. Once the drawings are complete, have the students write the word “habitat” in big letters at the top of their drawings. Discuss the meaning of habitat.
6. Give the students another piece of paper. Ask them to think of an Alaskan animal. Ask the students to draw a picture of their animal in a place where it lives. Make sure they include food, water, shelter and space.
7. Ask the students to talk about their drawings, pointing out the habitat components they have included.
8. Ask the students to write “habitat” in big letters at the top of this drawing as well. Discuss with students how humans and other animals need food, water, shelter and space. They all have similar needs.

Alaska Zoo Extension
While at the Alaska Zoo, complete the “Home Sweet Habitat Scavenger Hunt” worksheet.

Evaluation
1. Choose the elements that wildlife species need to survive: food, water, shelter and space. Explain.
2. Choose the elements people need to survive: food, water, shelter and space. Explain. Write a sentence about what people and wildlife need to survive.
An animal's home is called its **habitat**. A habitat contains everything that an animal needs to survive and reproduce. Which Alaska Zoo animals can be found in the habitats listed below?

1. Find an animal at the Alaska Zoo that lives in this type of habitat (remember there may be more than one answer):
   - On land ____________________________
   - In trees ____________________________
   - In lakes or rivers ___________________
   - On land and in water __________________
   - On sea ice __________________________
   - In the ocean _________________________
   - On a mountain _______________________
   - In a forest __________________________
   - In your backyard or neighborhood ______________
   - Is solitary __________________________
   - Lives in groups _______________________

2. What is your habitat? What do you need to live comfortably and survive? What is different about your habitat and the Alaska Zoo animals' habitats? What is similar?
   ______________________________________
   ______________________________________
   ______________________________________
   ______________________________________
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   ______________________________________
   ______________________________________