



Habitat Corners

Description

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Learn about animal habitats while playing a game that encourages students not to follow the crowd.

Supplies

- Rainforest, Ocean, Desert, and Forest written in large print on four different pages and posted in each corner of the room
- Pencils
- Crayons or markers
- Optional printable [Habitat Corners](#)

How to Play

1. **Prep Work:** Hang each of the four habitats in a different corner of the room. Make sure it is in a place where students can easily see it. Show the four different corners and the habitats that are posted in each.
2. Explain a habitat is an environment in which an animal lives. Ask the group what they know about the different habitats and fill them in on any missing information with the following:
 - **Desert:** Can be very hot and dry or cold. It is a lot of open space with few plants. Animals who live here must be able to survive in really extreme temperatures.
 - **Forest:** Lots of trees and plants. Has four seasons. Provides a lot of shade for animals that live there.
 - **Rainforest:** A rainforest is similar to a forest because it has lots of trees but it also has a lot of overgrown vegetation like plants, vines, and bushes. It is found near the equator and gets a lot of rain.

- **Ocean:** Very large space on our earth. The ocean takes up about 70% of the surface of our planet. Animals who live here must be able to breathe underwater.

5. Explain an animal will be called and students will have 10 seconds to decide which habitat they think that animal lives in. At the end of 10 seconds, they must be standing in one of the four habitat corners.

6. Once everyone is in their corner the correct habitat(s) will be announced and if someone is in the wrong habitat they must do the exercise announced. Sometimes it will be challenging because an animal might be able to live in several of the habitats. If a student is standing in any of the habitats an animal can live in, it is considered correct and they won't have to do the exercise!

7. Example animals and habitats: *Monkey- Rainforest, Ants- Rainforest or Forest, Dolphin- Ocean, Roadrunner- Desert, Scorpion- Desert, Squirrels- Forest, Coyote- Desert, Tarantula- Desert or Rainforest, Octopus- Ocean, Jaguar- Rainforest, Butterfly- Rainforest or Forest*

8. Example exercises: Push-ups, jumping jacks, hold a plank, army crawl, lunges, etc.

Activity Prompts for Reflection

- How did it make you feel when you got the correct habitat?
- What did it feel like when you guessed the wrong habitat?
- Did anyone get better at choosing the right habitat throughout the game? What helped you get better with this activity?
- Does anyone else in the group know any other animals that live in these habitats?
- Who has a strength of a good memory and did really well on the Habitat Corners sheet? How else can you use this strength at school or at home?
- How did you avoid peer pressure and choose the habitat you thought an animal lived in and not what your friends were choosing?

Other Ways to Play

- To make it more engaging, have students move/act like the different animals called out.
- Give students an animal sticker each time they go to the correct animal habitat and see how many stickers each student can collect.
- After announcing the correct habitat, ask students who are in the correct habitat why they chose that one? *Maybe they've seen that animal before in that habitat, maybe they know it can breathe underwater so they used critical thinking to choose that habitat.*
- Make it more challenging by calling out animals that are not in any of those habitats. If you call out an animal that does not live in any of the four provided habitats, students must go to the middle of the room for their guess. Make sure to inform students before playing this option so they know where to stand if they think an animal doesn't fit in one of the categories.

Additional Notes

- Use the [SEL Activity Prompts](#) to tie other SEL competencies to this activity.
- The number of exercises they have to complete should be determined by the leader.
- Replace Ocean habitat with Polar habitat to make it more difficult, this way students don't automatically know the correct answer when they hear an animal that can breathe underwater. Or

add it as a 5th spot and place the sign in the middle.

- *Polar Regions are land covered by large sheets of ice that are frozen for most of the year. In the winter, the sun never rises and in the summer the sun never sets. Some animals that live there are: elk, polar bear, penguin, walrus, snowy owl, orca, and arctic fox.*

Downloads and Links

[Optional Printable Habitat Corners](#)

Category

1. Activities
2. Self-Awareness

Sel-competency

1. Self-Awareness

Allotted-time

1. 15-20 minutes

Themes

1. Emotions