

My Favourite Place to Live

Learning values

- Learning about different animal habitats
- Comparing similarities and differences
- Sorting based on one or more characteristics
- Exploring the concepts of environment and habitat
- Investigating different climates

Recommended materials

- 9218 Wild Animals Set

Vocabulary

Encourage the use of these words during the activity:

- Habitat
- Climate
- Cold
- Hot
- Similar
- Different
- Adapt
- Characteristic

Connect

- Ask the children if they have ever been to a hot place. What was it like? Have the children close their eyes and picture this hot place. Ask the children if they have ever been to a cold place and have them tell each other what such a place is like.
- Talk to the children about habitats and climates. What kind of climate do the children live in – is it cold, hot, or somewhere in between? Ask the children if they have ever lived in a different or unusual place. Have them talk about this with a friend.
- Discuss the benefits of living in different climates. Ask the children which they would rather live in. Then brainstorm a list of animals that live in each climate; cold and hot.



Use the illustration to support the Connect story

Construct

- Pick two animals: one that lives in a cold climate and one that lives in a hot climate. Create and build a habitat for each.



Suggested model solutions

Contemplate

- Ask the children to sort the animals by habitat. Place them in the habitat where they would be most comfortable and survive the longest.
- Encourage the children to role play with the animals. Show what animals do when they are too hot or too cold. Have children describe aspects of different habitats that help animals survive, such as trees for shade, water for drinking, etc.
- Talk about the characteristics animals have that make them comfortable in their cold or hot climates, such as thick fur to keep a polar bear warm and short hair to keep a lion cool. Contemplate what would happen if the animals did not adapt so well to their habitats.

Continue

- Animals have special characteristics that help them live in their specific habitats. Discuss different animals and their special characteristics, such as a long neck on a giraffe for eating, the colour of a lion for camouflage, etc. Then sort animals by other characteristics such as colour, size, speed, etc.
- Build a zoo where each kind of animal has its own habitat. As the children are building, encourage them to talk about why each habitat is appropriate for each animal.

Check for evidence of learning

Have the children:

- Sort two or more animals based on the climate they live in: cold or hot.
- Describe one or more differences and similarities between two habitats.
- Explain or show one or more characteristics of an animal that helps it live in its habitat.



