



MINNESOTA ZOO™  
Changing how you see the world

# Animal Habitats

## Grades 4-6

### Post-visit Activity

#### **MN Graduation Standards supported:**

##### **Grade 3 Strand IV.C**

The student will understand that an organism's patterns of behavior are related to the nature of its environment.

**Grade 3 Strand 1.B** The student will understand the nature of scientific investigations.

**Grade 4 Strand 1.B** The student will participate in a controlled scientific investigation.

**Grade 5 Strand 1.B** The student will understand the process of scientific investigations.

**Grade 6 Strand 1.B** The student will understand that scientific inquiry is used in systematic ways to investigate the natural world.

#### **Introduction:**

This post visit assessment is a tool that can be used to check student learning about animals and their habitats which is a cross-curricular activity and is of high interest to students. Students will use reference and research skills in conjunction with the concepts learned during the zoo visit.

#### **Objectives:**

At the end of this lesson, students will

1. Demonstrate an understanding of how an animal lives as evidenced by making a diorama that exhibits a scene from that animal's habitat.
2. Gain presentation, public speaking, and listening skills as they share information about their animal(s).

#### **Procedure:**

1. Gather the following supplies:
  - Shoe Box (or box of similar size)
  - Construction Paper or Tempera Paints
  - Scissors
  - Glue
  - Pencils, Crayons or Markers
2. Using direct instruction and modeling, introduce/review the concept of making a quality diorama.
3. Students may use their Animal Web on-site worksheet as their source for information on an animal and its habitat.
4. Using listed supplies, have students recreate the habitat in their box.
5. Share/display – host an “Animal Habitat Exhibit”
6. Observe, question and help students throughout the process.
7. Conference with individual students to check their learning.

**Vocabulary:**

(see **Animal Habitats**

**Pre-visit activity)**

biome  
desert  
diorama  
environment  
forest  
habitat  
jungle  
prairie  
ocean  
rainforest  
savanna  
tundra

**Links:**

Examples of Habitat

Dioramas:

[www.google.com](http://www.google.com)

Click on Images

Type

Elementary School Animal

Habitats

In Search Box

[www.mnzoo.org/animals/index.asp](http://www.mnzoo.org/animals/index.asp)

**Procedure Continued:**

Special Notes:

1. Use construction paper and/or paint to make a bold background.
2. 3-D objects can be glued in the foreground of the box. If showing things that fly or swim, hang them from the top using thread.
3. This can be a collaborative project using bigger boxes.