



MINNESOTA ZOO™
Changing how you see the world

Animal Habitats

Grades 4-6

Pre-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.

Grades 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.

Vocabulary:
(see procedure)

Introduction:

These pre-visit activities will familiarize students with habitat vocabulary. It can be used as independent practice or as part of whole group instruction.

Objectives:

Students will put into practice habitat vocabulary using: a spelling scramble puzzle, a definition match, and a cloze comprehension exercise.

Procedure:

1. Help students understand the directions for all 3 activities. Assign them as an independent or small group pre-visit research activity.

OR

2. Do the activities together, introducing the habitat vocabulary by defining & describing each one:
 - biome – a division of the world's vegetation that corresponds to a particular climate and is characterized by certain plants and animals
 - community – different populations living and interacting in the same area
 - desert – an area of land in very hot climates with few plants and no permanent bodies of water

Links:

www.uen.org/utahlink/activities/view_activity.cgi?activity_id=3792

www.mnzoo.org/animals/index.asp

Procedure Continued:

- environment - surroundings
- forest – areas of land covered with trees and other plants growing close together
- habitat – the place or conditions in which a plant or animal lives
- jungle – an area covered with dense vegetation that is largely impenetrable
- needs – food, water, oxygen
- niche - specific section of a habitat
- ocean – a large expanse of salt water
- population – group of living things of the same species
- prairie – a treeless grass covered plain
- rainforest – a thick evergreen tropical forest found in areas of heavy rainfall and containing trees with broad leaves that form a continuous canopy
- savanna – a flat grassland, sometimes with scattered trees, in a tropical or subtropical region
- tundra – cold, treeless area; Arctic