



LEARNING LABS HAPPENIN' HABITATS

Discover what makes a home a habitat, both in nature and at Shedd. Meet live animals, examine their homes and compare and contrast habitats in ecosystems around the world. Through investigations and problem solving, students learn how animals use and even share these special places.

GRADE LEVEL: K-2 | **CAPACITY:** 35 students | **DURATION:** 50 minutes

KEY CONCEPTS

Habitats, adaptations, body parts, relationships

SKILLS

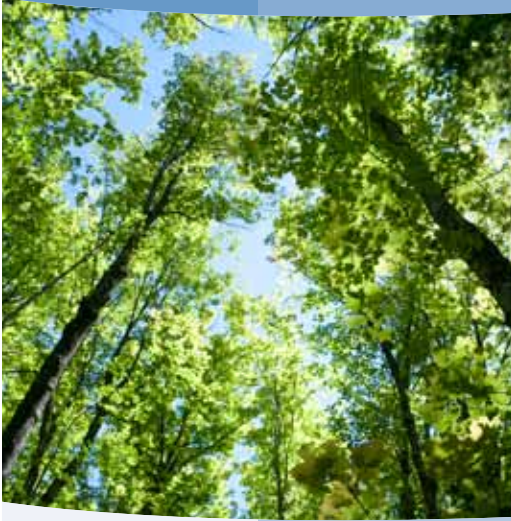
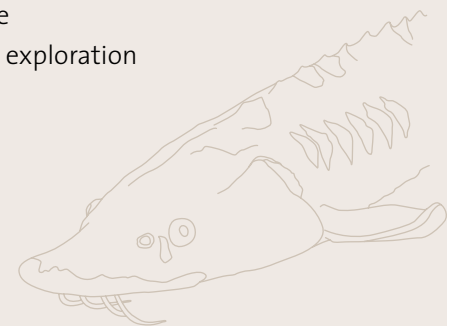
Reasoning, collaboration, observation, inquiry

IL STATE LEARNING STANDARDS

- 11.A.1a, 11.A.1b, 11.A.1f
- 12.A.1a, 12.B.1a, 12.E.1a
- 13.A.1c

WHAT TO EXPECT FROM THE LEARNING EXPERIENCE

- Students do activities to learn more about habitats
- Students work and collaborate in groups
- Teachers and chaperones may participate
- Multimedia resources encourage further exploration
- Opportunity for live animal interaction
- Students sit on mats in groups



For more information contact
studentprograms@sheddaquarium.org



FURTHER EXPLORATION

Encyclopedia of Life

<http://www.eol.org/>

The National Zoo

Conservation Central:

Design a Panda Habitat

<http://nationalzoo.si.edu/Education/ConservationCentral/design/default.cfm>

Switcheroo Zoo

Build an Online Habitat

<http://switchzoo.com/games/habitatgame.htm>

Monterey Bay Aquarium

Habitat Posters

http://www.montereybayaquarium.org/lc/activities/poster_isplay.asp

National Wildlife Foundation

Creating a Schoolyard Habitat

<http://www.nwf.org/Get-Outside/Outdoor-Activities/Garden-for-Wildlife/Schoolyard-Habitats/Create.aspx>



CONNECTIONS TO THE EXHIBITS

A habitat is a place that has everything an animal needs to survive. At Shedd, we provide habitats for more than 1,500 species of animals. Explore these habitats to discover the relationships between animals and their environments.

Caribbean Reef

The Caribbean Reef is a habitat shared by many animals. Have students observe different areas of the reef such as the top, middle, and bottom. Which animals are found in each section? Do any animals use more than one? Why would an animal live in one area of the habitat instead of another?

Abbott Oceanarium

Follow the Regenstein Otter Trail to the sea otter habitat. Have students observe the sea otters and their surroundings. Discuss what a sea otter needs to survive. Do you see any of those elements in the habitat? Is anything missing? Why would certain elements be missing?

Wild Reef

Not only do habitats provide necessities, they can also provide great hiding spots. Just before the shark exhibit, focus students' attention on the frogfish habitat. Have students find the frogfish. Were they easy or hard to spot? Why is the coral reef a good habitat for a frogfish?

CONNECTIONS TO YOUR CLASSROOM

- Introduce the idea of a habitat by having students make a list of what is found in a human habitat. Ask them to draw a picture of where they live and what they need to survive. Have them do the same for their favorite animal. Have students compare and contrast the two drawings.
- After your experience at Shedd, have students choose their favorite animal to research. Using your school's library and online resources, have students determine what belongs in their animal's habitat. Let students write and illustrate a story about their animal.