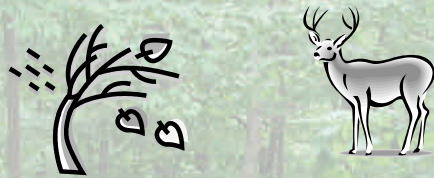


HUMBER ARBORETUM ECO CENTRE HABITATS

INTERESTING FACTS

- ✧ Each life-form, from bacteria to blue whales to humans, requires a specific type of habitat—an area with all the resources that species need to survive.
- ✧ Survival in the Antarctic is very difficult due to its harsh winter weather. The Emperor Penguin is adapted to survival in this very harsh environment. It breeds during the coldest winter months and feeds on crustaceans (krill) and fish in the ocean off the coast of Antarctica. It is the tallest and heaviest of all living penguin species.
- ✧ Habitats are determined by the amount of moisture or water that is available, the annual temperatures, the type of soil and the amount of light available. Habitats can be large or small. Within a large habitat, there can be several Micro-Habitats such as a rotting log in the forest, under a rock, at the base of a tree or a cluster of cattails in a ditch.
- ✧ Plants are living things, too. We often think of plants as part of a habitat but they have similar essential needs as animals. They need clean water and space. They make their own food from the soil, sunlight and air around them. Although they provide shelter for many animals they do require shelter from the weathering effects of the wind, extreme temperatures and sunlight.

COOL ACTIVITIES



Habitat Diorama

Have the students choose any animal, pet or wild, for which to create a habitat in the form of a diorama.

Some children may wish to research a wild animal or find out what the needs of an exotic pet might be. Others may choose an animal that is familiar to them.

The diorama should include all aspects of the animal's habitat; where it sleeps, finds food, drinks water and spends its time. The students may wish to use construction paper and/or modeling clay.

The diorama could be accompanied by a written explanation.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What is a habitat? (ANS: In simple terms, it is a home for an animal. A habitat is the natural environment of a living organism (plant or animal) where it can find the food, water, air, shelter and space that it needs to be healthy, live its full life cycle and reproduce.)
2. What are the five things that are essential to all animals (including humans) in a habitat? (ANS: food, clean water, shelter, space and fresh air)
3. Name some different habitats that you know. (ANS: Local habitats include pond, river, forest and meadow. There are many different habitats all over the world; hot desert, tundra(a cold desert), tropical rainforest, temperate rainforest, mountain, deciduous forest, coniferous forest, jungle, savannah, prairie, ocean, sea, lake, stream ... to name some)