

Title: Everyone Needs Shelter

Objective: Look for different types of shelter that animals use

Time: 30 minutes

Materials Needed: Journal, pencils, colored pencils (optional)

Interdisciplinary Lesson

Theme: Habitat

Topic: Shelter

Suggested Grade Level: K-3

Indoors or Outdoors: Outdoors

Directions:

1. Take a hike around your school grounds and look for shelters for animals of all sizes.
2. Draw what you find in your journal, label and write about you drawing. Share your findings with a partner.

Variation: Sketch the shape of you school building in your journal and make a map of where you found animal shelters on your school grounds. Label your map.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why is it so important for an animal to find shelter?
2. What do these shelters have in common?
3. What are some differences between the shelters you found?
4. What other animal shelters could you find in the woods? Pond? Your backyard?

Science and Engineering Practices:

1. Asking questions (science).

Crosscutting Concepts:

6. Structure and function.

Disciplinary Core Ideas:

Life Sciences: LS 2: Ecosystems: Interactions, energy and dynamics.

Background Information:

- Every animal needs a place to live. The environment where an animal lives is called its ‘habitat’. An animal’s habitat includes food, water, shelter and space. Shelter is where the animal seeks protection from weather or other animals.
- Some shelters you may find animals using or hiding in on your schoolyard include: worm and spider holes in the ground, mulch, nests (squirrels and birds), crevices in bark, the underside of leaves, next to the building foundation, under rocks or logs. Have fun searching for evidence of animals and their shelters.

Additional Resources:

- *Animal Habitats! (Williamson Little Hands Series)* by Judy Press
- *The ABS of Habitats* by Bobbie Kalman
- *The Magic School Bus Hops Home: A Book about Animal Habitats* by Pat Relf
- MN DNR: *Hole Sweet Hole, Niches for Everyone* - <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/mcvmagazine/young-naturalists.html>

Correlates with:

Greeting - Shelter Greeting (p. 31)

Activity - Squirrel in a Tree (p. 68)