

Animals Around Us

OBJECTIVE:

To recognize that wild animals share our communities with us and understand why it's important to protect their habitats.

ACTIVITY OVERVIEW:

Read the book, *Coyotes in the Crosswalk*, determine which wild animals live in the students' neighborhoods and how they can help protect their habitats.

MATERIALS:

- 🐾 Book: *Coyotes in the Crosswalk*, by Diane Swanson
- 🐾 Worksheet: "Wild Animals in My Neighborhood"

ACTIVITY:

Preliminary Discussion

- 🐾 How is a wild animal different than a pet? Who takes care of pets? Who takes care of wild animals?
- 🐾 Which wild animals live in your neighborhood? Why do wild animals live in cities and towns? Discuss how people have built neighborhoods in areas where wild animals live, so we must share these areas with them.
- 🐾 Define "habitat" and discuss examples.
- 🐾 Define "adaptation" and discuss how some wild animals have learned to "adapt" to living near people.

Procedure

Choose a few different wild animals to read about in the book, *Coyotes in the Crosswalk*. Try to choose those that might be living in your community. After reading several sections, take a walk around the school and have the students use their worksheets to record which animals they see that live near by. Have them write descriptions of the animals' habitats also.

When you get back to the class, compare everyone's notes and discuss what they observed. Discuss their feelings about what kind of life these animals have, living so close to people. What are some of the dangers to these animals? What are some of the benefits to the animals and the people that live near them?

Discuss why it's important for people to protect their habitats. Ask the students for ideas about how they could do that. Discuss how and why it is important to make responsible and compassionate choices to live peacefully together in the community. Make a class plan of how you can work together to protect the animals that live near the school.

Wild Animals in My Neighborhood

ANIMAL

TYPE OF HABITAT

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