

Where Do Animals Live?

OBJECTIVE

To be able to classify where pets live and where wild animals live and to understand the differences.

ACTIVITY OVERVIEW

Students will learn what kinds of homes pets and wild animals need. They will bring in a stuffed animal or puppet from home and match their animal to a picture of its home.

MATERIALS

- 🐾 Each student should bring in one stuffed animal or puppet from home.
- 🐾 Pictures of:
 1. various types of habitats of wild animals
 2. various types of homes where pets live (include pictures of houses, pets on their beds inside their home, hamsters/gerbils/mice/rats in cages w/ toys, pets with their families playing in their homes, etc.)

ACTIVITY

Preliminary Discussion

- 🐾 What kind of home does a pet need? Why is it important that pets live in our homes rather than outside? What can happen to them outside? How can the weather affect them? Where does a pet like a hamster, guinea pig or rabbit live? They live in cages but we need to take them out of their cages to play with them, exercise them and give them love and attention.
- 🐾 What kind of home does a wild animal have? Should we ever bring a wild animal into our home? Can a wild animal ever be a pet? Discuss that we can enjoy wild animals simply by watching them and learning about them, but that we shouldn't touch them, go near them or feed them. Wild animals may bite if they feel threatened. We also don't want them to get used to "human" food because then they will depend on us to feed them.

Procedure

Have each student tell the class what kind of animal they brought in, whether it's a pet or a wild animal and where it lives. Take the pictures of homes and habitats and spread them out on a table or the floor. Ask each student to match their animal to its home.

Post-Discussion

- 🐾 Where does your animal live? Why does it need to live in this kind of home?
- 🐾 What kinds of things does your animal need in its home?

EXTENSION ACTIVITY

As a class, pick an animal that the students are scared of or think is strange or ugly. Learn about the animal: how it acts, where it lives, why it's important or unique.