



# You Can Help!

Grade K-1

## Overview

The students will learn a song to help them understand the meaning of the word habitat. Students will discuss: the importance of protecting habitats and the plants and animals that live in them; and ways that they can help protect habitats. Each student will make a simple bird feeder to hang in a tree on the playground.

## Objectives

- To help students understand the importance of wildlife habitats.
- To help students understand that they can do things to help wildlife.
- To help students understand that it is important that people help to protect wildlife habitats.

## Materials:

*For the presenter:*

- copy of ***Where's the Habitat?*** (see page 2)
- chart paper
- colored marking pens
- pictures of a rabbit, a monkey, a lizard, and an alligator

*For each group of 4 students:*

- 4 large pine cones
- 4 popsicle sticks or table knives
- 1 container of peanut butter - about 1 1/2 cups
- 1 bowl with a bird seed & sunflower seed mixture
- 4 pieces of string - 12 inches long
- newspaper to cover tables
- 1 plastic tub for holding all of the above items

## Getting Ready

### Activity 1

Write the words to ***Where's the Habitat?*** on chart paper with a colored marker. Hang it up in front of the class where all the children will be able to see it. Hang the pictures of the animals by the chart, next to the part of the song that is about each animal.

## **Activity 2**

Get enough newspaper to cover the students' desks or tables. Put the items for each group in a plastic tub. This is an easy way to pass out materials and collect them when you are finished.

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## **Procedures**

### **Activity One: - Sing A Habitat Song**

1. Start by using the questions below to spark students' interest and start them thinking about habitats. "What is a habitat? Who lives in habitats? Why do wild animals need habitats? Think about our playground for a minute. Are there any places where wild animals or insects live on the playground? How about your backyard?" You will want the students to understand that a habitat is the place where an animal gets the food, water and shelter it needs to live.
2. Tell the students that today they are going to learn a song about habitats. It will help us remember how important habitats are to our environment. Show the students pictures of the monkey, alligator, lizard and rabbit. Ask: "Do you know where these animals live? What is their habitat?"
3. Tell them that they are going to learn a song about these animals. Go over the verses to the song. Hold up the pictures of each animal when you sing its verse. Afterwards teach the song to the students.

## **Background Information**

### ***\*WHERE'S THE HABITAT?***

(Sing to the tune of Frère Jacques)

**LEADER:** Where's the rabbit?  
Where's the rabbit?

**ALL:** Here I am. Here I am.

**LEADER:** Meadow grass is soft and deep.

**ALL:** That's where rabbits hop and leap. Hop away, leap away.

**LEADER:** Where's the monkey?  
Where's the monkey?

**ALL:** Here I am. Here I am.

**LEADER:** Jungle trees are towering.

**ALL:** That's where monkeys climb and swing. Climb away, swing away.

**LEADER:** Where's the lizard?  
Where's the lizard?

**ALL:** Here I am. Here I am.

**LEADER:** Desert sands get lots of sun.

**ALL:** That's where lizards crawl and run. Crawl away, run away.

**LEADER:** Where's the 'gator. Where's the 'gator?

**ALL:** Here I am? Here I am?

**LEADER:** Swampy water's dark and dim.

**ALL:** That's where 'gators creep and swim. Creep away, swim away.

**WHERE'S THE HABITAT** - Earth Day Every Day, National Wildlife Federation, 1990

Additional Music and Songs:

**HABITAT** - song by William M. Oliver, available on cassette tape (All Aboard) recorded by the T & O Railroad along with other children's songs. Contact Tom Kubisiak, 503-289-8909, 3333 N. Arlington Place, Portland OR 97217

## Activity Two: - Making Bird Feeders

Ask the students if they can think of any animals that live in our playground. You should get birds as one of their responses if your playground has trees. If not, possibly you could make this same project and they could put the feeders in a near by park or in trees at home.

Explain to the students that today they are going to make bird feeders that will help the birds, that live in our playground's habitat, find food to eat.

Before handing out any materials to the students, show them what they will be making and how to do it.

1. Each student takes a newspaper and covers their desk.
2. Have one member of each group place the peanut butter, strings, and seed mixture in center of the work area.
3. Each student needs a pine cone and a knife.
4. Tie the string on the top of the pine cone. Leave a loop at the top so you will be able to hang it from a tree.
5. With the knife, spread the peanut butter all over the pine cone.
6. Roll the pine cone in the seed mixture.
7. When you are finished, roll up your newspaper and put it in the garbage.
8. When everyone is finished, take the students outside and hang the cones from the trees.

## Closure

While you are outside have all the students point to a habitat. Tell them to whisper to their neighbor what lives there.

