



## Fall Pre-Visit Information and Background Habitats and Adaptations



### Background

Humans and animals have some of the same basic needs. Every animal needs a home. The scientific term for an animal's home is "**habitat**." An animal's habitat includes **food**, **water**, **shelter** and **space**. Because animals need the food, water, shelter and space to be available in a way that meets the animal's needs, we say that these things must be available in the right **arrangement**. People find shelter in homes and apartments, and animals also need shelter. The shelter might be underground, in a bush, in the bark of a tree, or under a rock. Animals also need space in which to find food and water.

### **School Yard Habitat**

1. Ask students the following questions. What is a habitat? (A habitat is an animal's home.) What do all living things need to survive? (Food, water, shelter, space, air). An animal's habitat must include food, water, shelter and space.
2. Ask students what their habitat is. (May answer house, neighborhood, city). Is your school a part of your habitat? (It must be since they spend time at school). How does your school meet your needs?
3. On a piece of paper, have students map out the school and label places in their school where they meet their basic needs (food, water, shelter, space).
4. Trace the origin of the food, water and shelter. Because food doesn't originate in the school, the student's habitat is larger than just their school or their house. As your class explores where their food and water originate, they will realize that their habitat extends even beyond the city of Cincinnati.
5. During the park visit with the naturalist, we will compare human's habitats with animals and how people and animals meet their needs in different ways.