

## At Home Habitats!

Duration: 30 min – 1 hour

Suggested Age: 4-12

### Supplies:

- A base for your habitat, paper plates and cardboard work well!
- Tape
- Scissors
- Markers
- Glue
- LEGO bricks or similar
- Pipe cleaners
- Tissue paper
- Construction paper
- Ribbon
- Toilet paper rolls or other recycled materials like water bottles, lids, or plastic containers
- Natural materials found around your house! Leaves, flowers, sticks, acorns, etc.

### Steps:

- Collect materials! Tip: Go outside and see what you can find in your backyard.
- Determine what sort of habitat you want to build! What toy animals do you have in your house? What is your favorite animal?
- Think about what these animals need to survive. What do they eat? What is their water source?

Some examples:

Rabbits like:

- Dry areas, desert, scrublands, and grasslands

- Minimal trees, and vegetation low to the ground

Deer like:

- Forests, grasslands, scrublands, and mountains
- They eat grass, weeds, tree bark, cactus, acorns and fruit

Owls like:

- Large trees near bodies of water like streams, rivers, creeks, and lakes
- Dense plants for roosting and nesting
- Use your supplies to build a habitat for your animal.

### Explore Further:

- In our Backyard Ecology Hall, all the animals live in a habitat. Some animals like our Box Turtles enjoy water to bask in, while others like our lizards prefer dryer, warmer habitats.
- Do you see any animals in your backyard or a park near you? If so, those spaces are a part of their habitat. What makes these areas a good place for animals to live?

### Definitions:

**Habitats:** The natural home or environment of an animal, plant, or other organism

**Ecosystems:** an ecosystem is a community of living organisms interacting as a system with the nonliving components of their environment