

My Favorite Animal

Materials Needed:

- Large habitat images (3' x 5') – woodlands or forest, wetland, prairie or grassland, urban, jungle, arctic, ocean, etc. (Laminated for re-use if possible)
- drawing paper – one sheet per paper
- crayons or markers
- Scissors and tape

Time:

approximately 50 minutes

Skills:

Science (habitats)

Art (drawing)

Procedure:

Begin the activity by giving each student a sheet of drawing paper and inviting them to draw their favorite animal... it does not matter what their animal is. Once students are done drawing their animal, have them cut-out their animal.

As students are drawing and cutting-out their favorite animals, hang the large images of the different habitats around the room.

****Note:** before you may want groups of students to draw the different habitats before you begin the activity.

After students have completed and cut-out their drawings, have them look at all the large habitat images and choose which one their animal would live in. For example, if the student's animal drawing is of a dog, it would go in the urban landscape. Or, if the student's favorite animal is a fox, it would go in the grassland or prairie. Or, if the student's favorite animal is a woodpecker, it would go in the woodland/forest or urban landscape.

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It is important to remember that some animals can go in several landscapes. Allow the student to place their animal in any landscape that is reasonable. You may want each student to explain why they are placing their animal in the habitat landscape they are.

You may want to end the activity by having a simple classroom discussion on why certain animals live in certain areas... they have adapted to living in that habitat and they can find the food they need, water, the shelter they need, and space.