

## Wants vs. Needs

### Materials Needed:

- Bottle of Water
- Granola Bar, Small Box of Cereal, or another item which represents “food”
- Small toy house to represent shelter
- Piece of paper with the word “Space” written on it to represent “space”
- random book
- pair of sunglasses
- old or toy cell phone
- box of crayons or markers
- toy car (to represent an actual car)
- watch
- A bag or pillow case to hold all items
- Copies of “Wants” and “Needs” signs

### Time:

approximately 20 minutes

### Skills:

Science (habitats)

### Procedure:

Use this activity at the start of a discussion about animal habitats and habitat components. Talk with students about what is included in an animal’s habitat – food, water, shelter, space.

On one end of a table, tape the “Wants” sign to one the front of one side and the “Needs” to the front of the other side of the table.

Invite one student to the front to pull one item out of the bag and place it in the “Wants” or “Needs” category. Then, the student must

*over*



explain why they categorized the item as a “Want” or “Need.” If a student places an item in the wrong pile, do not say anything... simply allow the item to stay in the wrong pile.

Continue this process until all items from the bag have been placed in either the “Wants” or “Needs” pile.

Once all items have been placed, ask the class if they see any items on the table that they think need to be moved from the “Wants” to the “Needs”... or from the “Needs” to the “Wants”? If a student comes to the front to move an item, they must explain why they moved the item.

Finish the activity by working as a group to ensure the “Wants” pile includes: granola bar (or item representing food), bottle of water, toy house (representing shelter), and the “Space” card. And, the “Wants” pile includes all other items from the bag.

Have a class discussion on why all the “Wants” items are truly “Wants.” For example, books are important to learn new things, but you can also learn by talking with others, asking questions of your teachers or parents, etc. A pair of sunglasses might be nice on a sunny day, but you could also shade your eyes with your hand, wear a hat, or sit in the shade.

Wants

**Needs**