

ECO-EXPLORER

“Eco” is short for *ecology*. Ecology is the study of how plants and animals live together in the environment. Have fun trying these activities as an eco-explorer!

1. Eco Treasure Hunt

Try to find both living and nonliving things in the natural environment. You will need a pencil. When you find an item, check it off. Do your best not to harm, move, or take away any of these things. Animals and plants may depend on them!

Nonliving Things

- dew drops
- smooth rock
- shiny rock
- sand
- broken rock
- water
- sunlight
- clouds
- rock piles/cliffs

Signs of Living Things

- ant hill
- bird nest
- bones
- broken twigs/branches
- brown leaves lying on the ground
- bits of fur/feathers
- spider web
- animal footprint

Living Things

- flat green leaf
- green leaf with pointy edges
- green leaf with insect holes
- green pine needles on a tree
- insect (ant, caterpillar, beetle, butterfly, etc.)
- flower
- cactus
- mushroom
- moss
- squirrel
- chipmunk
- bird
- worm

ECO-EXPLORER (Cont.)

2. What is a Habitat?

Unscramble the words below. The clue underneath the blanks will help you. Then you will discover the four most important things that an animal (or plant) needs in order to survive.

1. _ _ _ _ ofod

Clue: When you are hungry and your stomach is growling, you need to find some of this.

2. _ _ _ _ _ tawre

Clue: When you are thirsty, this is the best liquid for you to drink, and it's not soda!

3. _ _ _ _ _ pasec

Clue: We all need a little of this and it rhymes with place.

4. _ _ _ _ _ _ _ telhser

Clue: If you were outside and there was a bad storm, you would look for this kind of place.

Now you know what is found in a habitat. A habitat is a place where an animal (or plant) lives and finds the four things above that it needs to survive. It's like an animal's (or plant's) address.

3. Make a Habitat

Pick one of the animals from the following list (or any list you like) and make a pretend habitat for it to live in. Don't forget to include food, water, and shelter for your animal!

**SQUIRREL
SHARK
HAWK**

**LION
BEAR
MONKEY**

Make a habitat in a shoebox with buttons, clay, and colored construction paper, cotton balls, felt, tissue paper, pipe cleaners, and other materials.