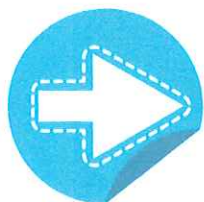
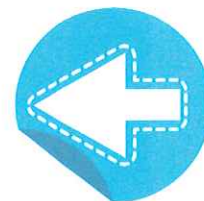




Meeting 12 Habitats



Here are three fun ways to teach Helping Hands about habitats. Adapt the activities to meet the needs of your Helping Hands or create your own activities.





The following activities partially fulfill the requirements for the Habitat award.

ACTIVITY

1

Habitat Charades

15

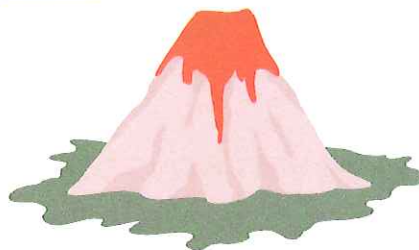
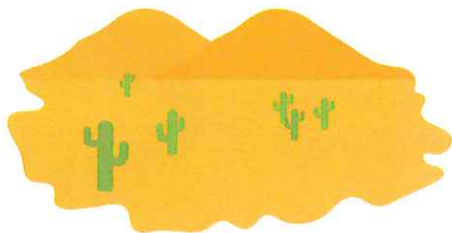
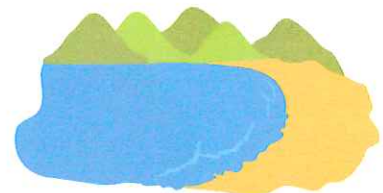
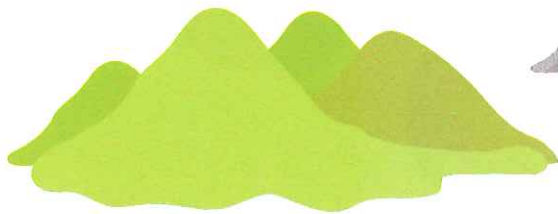
MINUTES

WHAT YOU DO

Write the definition of a habitat on the board. Show pictures of different habitats and talk about the animals that live there.

A habitat is a place where plants and animals live. An animal's habitat is similar to your neighborhood. A habitat provides five things for an animal: food, water, shelter, air, and a place to raise its young. Different animals need different amounts of space, so some habitats are small like a burrow and others are large like a prairie.

After discussing habitats, have the Helping Hands stand in a circle. Demonstrate the game with another adult before the children play. Give all the children 30 seconds to quietly think of a specific habitat and the animals that live there. Then select one child to step into the center of the circle and act out one animal that he or she thought of. Encourage the kids in the circle to guess what animal is being acted out and what type of habitat it lives in. The first child who guesses correctly is next in the middle of the circle. Make sure everyone gets a turn in the center.



Biosphere in a Bottle

WHAT YOU DO

10
MINUTES

2 ACTIVITY

Ahead of time: Cut the two 2-liter bottles as shown. Drill or punch a hole in half of the bottle caps—these will go on the inverted bottles.

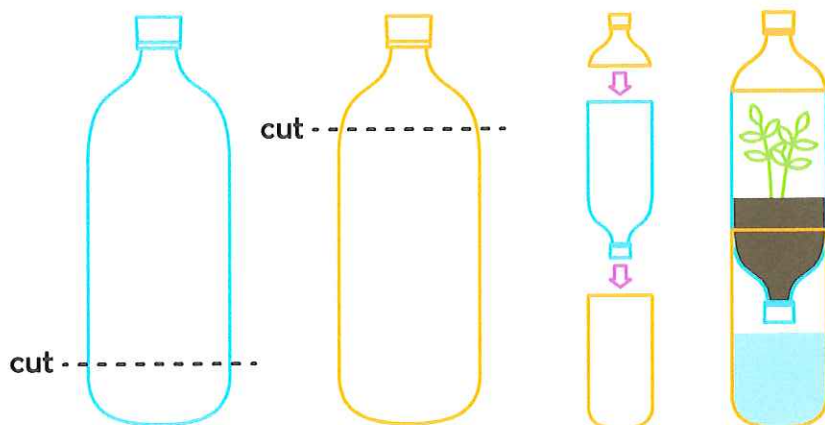
Begin reading Genesis 1:9-13 (CEB): “God said, ‘Let the waters under the sky come together into one place so that the dry land can appear.’ And that’s what happened. God named the dry land Earth, and he named the gathered waters Seas. God saw how good it was. God said, ‘Let the earth grow plant life: plants yielding seeds and fruit trees bearing fruit with seeds inside it, each according to its kind throughout the earth.’ And that’s what happened. The earth produced plant life: plants yielding seeds, each according to its kind, and trees bearing fruit with seeds inside it, each according to its kind. God saw how good it was. There was evening and there was morning: the third day.”

Discuss what habitats were created in these verses. Then show the children a completed biosphere in a bottle. Explain that a biosphere includes all the elements that support life on earth.

Give the children the precut 2-liter bottles, duct tape, and string. Fill the bottom of the cut 2-liter bottle with water. Next, have the children thread the cotton string through the hole in the bottle cap, attach it to the bottle top that will be inverted, insert that bottle into the base filled with water, and duct tape the bottle segments together. Place about 3.5 in (8 cm) of potting mix into the inverted bottle. Mist the soil with water until slightly damp and pot the plants. Place pill bugs, worms, or land snails on the soil. Place the final bottle section on top of the biosphere and secure it with duct tape.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Two 2-liter soda bottles
- Bottle caps
- Duct tape
- Scissors
- Heavy cotton string about 6 in (15 cm) long
- Distilled water
- Potting mix (soil)
- Two small plants with the roots attached
- Spray bottles
- Pill bugs, worms, or land snails





ACTIVITY

3

Habitat Hunt

15
MINUTES

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Habitat Hunt Worksheet (see p. 124 or Pinterest)
- Pens/pencils
- Clipboards (optional)

WHAT YOU DO

Ahead of time: Choose a habitat for the kids to explore, such as the church grounds, schoolyard, or a nearby park.

Begin by asking the Helping Hands what the animals and birds living in your area eat and drink and what types of homes they inhabit. Then give each child a Habitat Hunt worksheet and a pen or pencil. Read through each of the questions and discuss examples of what the children might find for each question. Next, take the children out to explore a habitat. You can have them work in pairs or alone. When they come back inside, discuss what they found.



TIP

Can't go outside to explore a habitat? Check out the Kids Animal Channel on [YouTube.com](https://www.youtube.com). It has several videos about habitats. You can also check your local library to find books or DVDs about local habitats.



Find the **Habitat Hunt Worksheet** at [Pinterest.com/AdventSource](https://www.pinterest.com/AdventSource)



Award: Habitat

To complete this award, check the requirements on p. 136 and add activities as needed.