



NEEDS MAP
LIVING WINTER
PRE-VISIT LESSON PLAN

Objectives:

Students will demonstrate an understanding of habitats as areas that provide plants and animals with the necessities of life such as food, water, shelter and space.

Materials:

- “Needs Map” worksheet
- Clipboards (if available)
- Pencils / pencil crayons

Lesson:

1. Brainstorm with the students a list of things people need to live. Make it a big list that can be narrowed down later.
2. Narrow the list down to the true needs for survival: food, shelter, water, space and air. If there are other items on the list, place them on a separate list.
3. Explain that other animals have the same list of needs as us. They must find these needs in their habitats. We will be investigating how animals do this in our schoolyard.
4. Ask the students if the schoolyard is part of an animal’s habitat. List the different animals that they have seen in the schoolyard.

Activity:

1. Out in the schoolyard, students individually spend time quietly observing a squirrel or other animal and use their “Needs Map” worksheet to keep track of their animal’s actions.
2. Students make a map of the schoolyard that labels that animal’s sources of food, shelter, water and space.

Closure:

Students can compare their map with a partner and revise each of their maps to make a more complete poster-sized copy.



Name: _____

Needs Map

Spend time observing a schoolyard animal in its habitat. Take notes about the activities you see it doing (ie. Eating, hiding, sleeping, storing food):

Create a colour-coded “Needs Map” that shows where the animal finds each of its needs:

	<p>Legend</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Food<input type="checkbox"/> Water<input type="checkbox"/> Shelter<input type="checkbox"/> Space
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