

Dear Educator:

Thank you for signing up for *There's No Place Like Home*, a 40-minute program designed to help students explore what all animals need in their habitat to survive and how to care for the environment to keep our wildlife friends happy and healthy.

There's No Place Like Home will answer the following Essential and Guiding questions:

- Why is an animal's habitat so important for its survival?
 - What do all animals need to survive?
 - Where do animals find what they need to survive?
 - What happens to an animal when it can't find what it needs to survive?
 - How can people help to protect animals' habitats?

The Oregon Zoo hopes that as a result of this program, students will be able to:

- List the four things all animals need to survive
- Define habitat as the place where an animal finds the food, water, shelter and space it needs to survive
- Identify one thing that might happen to an animal if its habitat is lost
- Name two actions they and their families can take to help protect animal habitats
- Feel an increased appreciation for live animals and their homes

The program is correlated to the following academic standards:

Next Generation Science Standards:

K-LS1-1. Use observations to describe patterns of what plants and animals (including humans) need to survive.

K-ESS3-1. Use a model to represent the relationship between the needs of different plants or animals (including humans) and the places they live.

K-ESS3-3. Communicate solutions that will reduce the impact of humans on the land, water, air, and/or other living things in the local environment.

Oregon Social Science Standards:

K.10. Explain how people can care for the environment.

In an effort to prepare students for their Zoo School program, please consider the following activities:

1. Explore basic survival needs of humans and wildlife by drawing their own homes and neighborhoods.

What's Your Habitat (National Wildlife Federation)

<https://www.nwf.org/~media/PDFs/Be%20Out%20There/Schoolyard%20Habitats/whatsyourhabitat2.ashx>

2. A fun song to help students learn what animals need to stay alive.
Harry Kindergarten Music
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k4UDf3tF_O4
3. A series of activities explore what animals and plants need to survive, how their habitats support these needs, and how organisms can change their environment.
Teachers' Domain Life Science Collection (WGBH Educational Productions, the WGBH Media Library, and WGBH Interactive)
http://www.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/tdc02.sci.life.colt.lp_stayalive/the-needs-of-living-things/

Continue the learning after we leave your classroom with the following enrichment activities:

1. Go on a nature hike around the school. Look for examples of food, water, shelter, and space, and brainstorm what animals might live nearby and use these aspects of habitat. Remember to “Look up, look down, look all around,” and don’t forget about tiny animals like insects!
2. Draw your favorite animal in its habitat. Be sure to include all the different things it needs to survive.
3. Create wildlife habitat on your school grounds.

Both the National Wildlife Federation and Oregon State University Extension offer valuable information and support to teachers and schools.

- National Wildlife Federation
<http://www.nwf.org/Garden-For-Wildlife/Create/Schoolyards.aspx>
For additional information contact Morgan Parks (parksm@nwf.org) at the National Wildlife Federation’s office in Portland.
 - Oregon State University Extension
<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/4hwildlifestewards/>
For additional information and support contact Maureen Hosty (maureen.hosty@oregonstate.edu) at Oregon State University Extension 4-H – Multnomah County.
4. Build bird feeders to hang on trees outside your classroom
<http://frogsandsnailsandpuppydogtail.com/10-bird-feeders-kids-love-to-make/>
 5. Beautify your schoolyard. With garbage bags and gloves, have students collect trash around their school. After you collect everything, have students recycle as much as they can instead of putting it straight into the garbage.