



Paper 'Bag'itat

(Age 6 and up.)



The word **habitat** refers to the place where animals and plants live. Without a good habitat that has the things an animal needs, the animal's survival will be in serious danger. In fact, habitat loss is the number one reason that species become endangered and extinct in the wild! Create a habitat in a paper bag that will meet all of your favorite wild animal's needs.

What you'll need

Brown paper grocery sack*
Old newspapers
Magazines and/or construction paper
Markers
Scissors
Glue or glue stick

What to do

1. Open the paper bag and stand it upside down, with the opening facing the table.
2. Stuff the bag with crumpled newspapers to puff it out and make it stand up straight.
3. Choose a wild animal to build a habitat for. Consider all of its needs. (Look at the bottom of this page to get ideas about food, water, shelter and space.)
4. Use the magazines to find pictures of what the animal would have in its habitat. Cut the photos out carefully and glue them to the bag, making it look like the landscape where your chosen animal might live.
5. If desired, use construction paper to cut out other items, such as a sun, a mountain, a river, etc. Glue these items to the bag, as well.
6. If you need more details on your landscape, use markers to draw in the finishing touches.
7. Be sure to cover all four sides of your 'bag'itat with items from your animal's habitat.

Investigate and discover!

Habitat is one of the most important things for an animal's survival. There are several kinds of habitat – deserts, rainforests, grasslands, deciduous forests and wetlands. To find out if a certain habitat is good for a specific animal, you have to consider things like:

Food	Look at the edible plants and possible prey that live in a habitat.
Water	What are the water sources — lakes? streams? plants?
Shelter	What might protect animals from danger or the elements — trees? caves? burrows?
Arrangement	How is each different part of the animal's habitat arranged with all the other parts of the animal's habitat? Is everything close together? Far apart?
Space	How much room does a species need to roam and live in?

**This activity also may be done on a shoebox turned upside down.*