

STEM ADVENTURE!

Animal Habitat



Welcome to the STEM Adventure!

We will be practicing language arts, science and math skills as we explore the outdoors. Be observers as we discover how animals use their environments to create their habitats. Discover more in the way you learn best with hands-on activities, on-air PBS KIDS programming and online resources. WITF and IUs 12, 13 and 15 wish you happy exploring!

Talk About It

What happens to animals' homes when their habitats are destroyed? Things like fires or floods can destroy an animal's home. Humans can also destroy animal habitats. Ask your child, "What happens to birds and their nests when we cut down trees?" There are birds that find it difficult to find nesting places in certain areas because people destroy their habitats by clearing land to build homes and buildings. Ask your child, "How humans can help birds and other animals whose habitat has been destroyed." Humans helping living things is known as conservation. Scientists have studied birds and their habitats to learn how to build birdhouses that can accommodate their needs to survive in the area where natural habitats have been eliminated. Ask your child, "Why humans build birdhouses in different sizes and shapes?" The type of bird and size of the bird are important factors to consider before building.

Key Vocabulary: Conservation

Try It Out

Design and build a birdhouse to fit the nest you created last week. Sketch your ideas for the birdhouse design on paper and show it to an adult before building. To build your birdhouse, you can use recyclable materials such as a cereal box, cardboard, construction paper, a milk jug, a plastic container or any other materials you can find. Be creative. Your birdhouse must fit your nest, have a hole for birds to enter and exit the house, and a door that you can open and close to put your nest inside.

Materials: Recyclable materials (cereal box, cardboard, plastic containers, milk carton), glue, scissors, paper

Extension: After building your first birdhouse, think about improvements you could make. Build a second birdhouse based on those improvements. Include three different geometric shapes in your new birdhouse.

Explore On-Air

Watch an episode of *Wild Kratts*. *Wild Kratts* airs Monday - Friday on WITF TV at 7:30am and 12:30pm. You can also watch on WITFK 24/7 at 6pm and 6:30pm. The *Wild Kratts* episode you choose will help you explore animals and where they live.

Explore Online

Homemade BIRD HOUSE
<https://tinyurl.com/ybn55mxu>
Design a Cute and Easy Bird House
<https://tinyurl.com/y7bqpejq>

You Could Be...



You could be an architect! Architects design structures like buildings, parks and homes. Zaha Hadid was the first woman to earn architecture's highest honor, the Pritzker Architecture Prize (2004).



The Engineering by Design program is built around state and national standards that engage learners in authentic problem/project-based learning activities that build their understanding of Math, Science, Technology, Engineering and English-Language Arts while making sense of the world around them.



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Companion Site:

<http://bit.ly/PBSiu121315>

