

Where Do You Call Home? Pre-K – 1st grade

Teacher Resource Packet



Dear Teacher,

Thank you for choosing The Children's Museum of Science and Technology. This packet is intended to extend and enhance your students' museum experience. The materials will help you to prepare your students for an educational program and will enable them to build upon the learning experience after your visit to the museum. Enjoy the activities and resources.

Please keep in mind the following in preparing for your Museum Program:

- All students should wear nametags
- Please inform your museum educator of any special needs prior to the start of the program.

We hope you enjoy your program. If you have any questions or comments, please call the Museum at 518-235-2120.

Where Do You Call Home?

Program Guide Description: Find out about human and animal homes along the Hudson River. Meet aquatic and land animals, investigate local habitats and animal life needs and explore how Mohican Indians lived in the Hudson River Valley.

Grades: Pre-K, Kindergarten, 1st

Program Time: 60 minutes

NYS Learning Standards:

Elementary Science / Living Environment 1.1: Describe the characteristics of and variations between living and nonliving things

Program Goals:

- To introduce students to the concept that all living things have basic life needs including air, water, food, and shelter.
- To introduce students to the different ways organisms (including humans) meet their basic life needs and thrive in a variety of environments.

Participants Objectives:

- Participants will be better able to describe basic life needs.
- Participants will be better able to compare and contrast the ways in which different animals living along the Hudson River meet their life needs in various environments.

Where Do You Call Home? Pre-K – 1st grade

Teacher Resource Packet

I. Pre and Post Visit Activities

A. Where Do You Live?

Materials:

Books: Homes around the World, How a House is Built and Beaver at Long Pond Paper, Markers, Yarn, Construction Paper, Glue, Modeling Clay, Sticks and other building materials.

Read Homes Around the World. Discuss how homes around the world are built in different shapes and sizes, and made out of different materials based on what is available and what is suited to the environment. Read How a House is Built then have students draw pictures of their homes and talk about why they look the way they do. Conclude unit by reading Beaver at Long Pond and discussing how beavers build shelters. Work with students to create either an animal shelter or human shelter based on what they have seen in the stories. A simple beaver lodge can be constructed with clay, pebbles and sticks, or with pieces of brown yarn glued to dome-shaped construction paper.

B. Land and Aquatic Animals of the Hudson River Valley Region

Material:

Pictures of Animals in the Hudson River Valley Region

Large Blue Circle (represents water)

Large Green Circle (represents land)

Large Yellow Circle (represents water and land)

Hang large circles on wall and label each as water, land, or land and water. Every day chose a different animal of the day. At the beginning of each day, present the animal and discuss the ways it meets it basics life needs. Have the students vote whether they think the animal has a land or aquatic habitat, or both. At the end of the day hang the animal picture in the appropriate circle.

C. Create a school-yard habitat and wildlife garden.

Work with the administration to leave an area of the playground untouched by lawn mowers and other maintenance equipment. With your class observe changes in this area over the school year. Keep a running list with pictures and drawings of new plants as they move into the sight. As the area becomes more diverse with plant life, notice the number of insects and animals using this area as well. Make pine cone bird feeders with Crisco and seeds. Hang them out and watch the area become a healthy habitat for many animals. Research and read about

Where Do You Call Home? Pre-K – 1st grade

Teacher Resource Packet

the lives of insects, plants, birds. Discuss the ways that people can help animals to live in nearby habitats.

Contact Cooperative Extensions and get information on native plants. Order seeds and grow them in your classroom. Plant and maintain the wildlife garden with your students to attract more birds, butterflies and wildlife. Visit Five Rivers or other Nature Centers and collect ideas for creating wildlife gardens, natural meadow and field wildlife habitats. Join the National Wildlife Federation's Backyard Wildlife Habitats program. Use their website for great gardening ideas.

II. Books for Kids and the Classroom

Bunting, Eve 1996. Secret Place. Clarion Books, New York

Even in an urban environment, animals need healthy habitats.

Discover the secret places that animals use to survive in cities.

George, William T and Lindsay B. 1988. Beaver at Long Pond.

Greenwillow Books, New York.

This realistic nature book provides an underwater view of beaver behaviors, habitats and daily activities in a format that appeals to young children.

George, William T. and Lindsay B. 1989. Box Turtle at Long Pond.

Greenwillow Press, New York.

Follow a threatened NY state species on a habitat adventure and see how a turtle finds food, water and shelter.

George, Lindsay B. 1996. Around the Pond: Who's been here?

Greenwillow Press, New York.

Young children adore this interactive and visually stunning book.

Students are provided with clues and become nature detectives to solve the questions of who lives around the pond.

Gibbons, Gail 1996. How a House is Built. Holiday House

Simple text, and colorful illustrations describe how people work together to build houses and homes.

Hoberman, Mary Ann, 1984. A House is a House for Me.

A rhyming story about houses concluding with the idea that the Earth is everyone's home.

Kalman, Bobbie 1994. Homes Around the World. Crabtree Publishing

Photographs of homes, families and children living in different environments around the world makes this book a great cultural learning tool.

Where Do You Call Home? Pre-K – 1st grade

Teacher Resource Packet

Fleming, Denise 1993. *In the Small, Small Pond*. Scholastic Inc. New York. Wiggle, hop, dabble and flop in a game a charades using this book to introduce children to the movements and lifestyles of pond animals.

McDonald, Megan, 1990. *Is This a House for Hermit Crab?* Orchard Books, New York. Follow a small hermit crab as it searches for the right home.

Books for Teachers:

Gertz, Lucille N. 1993. *Let Nature be the Teacher*. Habitat Institute for the Environment, Belmont, MA.

Kochanoff, Peggy 1994. *A Field Guide to Nearby Nature, Fields and Woods of the Midwest and East Coast*. Mountain Press Publishing Company, Missoula, MT.

Newcomb, Lawrence, 1997. *Newcomb's Wildflower Guide*. Little Brown and Company, Boston.

Ranger Ricks Nature Scope, 1989. *Wading into Wetlands*. National Wildlife Federation. Learning Triangle Press

III. Vocabulary

Basic life needs: food, air, water, and shelter

River: a body of water that flows from a source to the ocean

Forest: a large group of trees growing together

Pond: a pool of water that is fed by a spring, stream, or river

Ocean: the large bodies of water that separate the continents

Aquatic animal: an animal that lives in the water

Land animal: an animal that lives on the land

Home: the place where an animal makes its shelter

Where Do You Call Home? Pre-K – 1st grade

Teacher Resource Packet

Habitat: the place where an animal lives and fulfills its basic life needs

Environment: the total surroundings and forces that act upon a living thing.

IV. Websites:

Cornell Cooperative Extension: Gardening Resources

<http://www.gardening.cornell.edu>

Enchanted Learning: Freshwater Marshes.

<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/biomes/marsh/freshwater.shtml>

Enchanted Learning: Homes and Other Dwellings.

<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/themes/homes.shtml>

Environmental Education for Kids: Wetlands.

<http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/caer/ce/eeek/nature/habitat/wetland1.htm>

Historic Hudson River.

<http://hhr.highlands.com/nathist.htm>

Historic Hudson River: Native American Tribes.

<http://hhr.highlands.com/native.htm>

Stockbridge-Munsee Nation: Mohican History.

<http://www.mohican.com/history/oeh.htm>

Native Languages of the Americas: Mohican Fact Sheet for Kids.

http://www.geocities.com/bigorrin/mohican_kids.htm